

Fears of anti-German campaign on streets of Beirut

More kidnaps but mystery still on Waite

From Jean Carlos Gurnacio, Beirut

There was confusion last night about the whereabouts of Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy who is in Lebanon on another mission to secure the release of Western hostages.

Mr Waite disappeared on Tuesday night to contact Lebanese kidnappers holding some of the hostages and has not been seen since. Early yesterday there were conflicting reports initially attributed to the Druze radio station, The Mountain Voice, that Mr Waite had been kidnapped, but these reports were later denied.

Yesterday morning two men said to be foreigners were abducted at gunpoint in a busy street of west Beirut and speculation grew that they could have become the latest victims of an anti-German campaign. Two other West Germans were kidnapped earlier this week.

But reports about the double abduction were contradictory. By nightfall, there was no claim for the kidnapping of the two men.

Druze militiamen in charge of Mr Waite's security since

his arrival almost two weeks ago have indicated that he is well.

Sir John Gray, the British Ambassador to Lebanon, met Lebanese Foreign Ministry officials yesterday, but he said that Mr Waite's mission was not discussed. "I am obviously following with interest

Church of England circles in London said yesterday they were not yet becoming anxious about Mr Waite's safety. There had been contact with Druze sources in Lebanon indicating that all was well. At Lambeth Palace, no news was being interpreted as good news.

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Mr Waite's mission... But you know Mr Waite's methods are very personal, very individual and he does not tell me where he is going and he does not tell me when he's coming back," he said.

The curiosity of many residents in west Beirut was centred rather on the latest abductions. Witnesses said the two men were intercepted by four gunmen near a newsstand and were taken away in a dark car in a matter of seconds. One witness said the men had fair hair and another, that the men's appearance left no doubt that they were foreigners.

Some militiamen in the neighbourhood went as far as to say that both men were West Germans, but that claim was doubtful. Since the kidnapping of two West Ger-

mans, Dr Rudolf Cordes and Herr Alfred Schmidt, in the past six days, most West German citizens in west Beirut have left.

Yesterday Lebanese police escorted 11 West Germans across the Green line into Christian east Beirut and authorities said that the evacuation of West Germans had been completed, except for a reduced number of diplomats and security men who remain in the heavily guarded West German Embassy in Ras Beirut.

Herr Antonius Eitel, the West German Ambassador, was perhaps the only West German to venture into the streets. He did it under a formidable protection and only to go see Sheikh Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah, the respected Shia Muslim scholar regarded as the spiritual leader of the Hezbollah, or Party of God.

The Ambassador said that given "the important role which his excellency plays within the Shia community," he had asked the Sheikh to do "whatever he can" to win the release of Dr Cordes and Herr Schmidt.

The relations between Bonn and the Shia community in Lebanon came into conflict after Frankfurt police arrested Muhammad Ali Hamadi, a 22-year-old man sought by US police in connection with the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jet to Beirut. A US Navy diver was shot dead in the hijacking.

The Americans have requested his extradition and initially the response from Bonn had been favourable and swift.



Mr Terry Waite under guard by a Druze militiaman. The Druze are now responsible for his security as he seeks to secure the freedom of European and American hostages.

Palace sues 'Sun' over royal letter

By Alan Hamilton

Buckingham Palace last night took the rare step of instituting legal proceedings against *The Sun* newspaper after its publication yesterday of a personal letter from the Duke of Edinburgh to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Michael Wilkins, Commandant-General of the Royal Marines.

Mr Michael Shea, the Queen's press secretary, said that the letter had been put in the hands of Farrer and Co., the Queen's solicitors, on the ground that publication of a private and confidential letter was a "blatant" breach of copyright. There was no comment on the move last night from News International, publishers of *The Sun*.

Although there is little likelihood that such an action by the Palace would ever proceed to the acute embarrassment of a court hearing, taking the preliminary steps towards legal action is an indication of the Duke of Edinburgh's fury.

Such a move is unusual from the Palace, which normally prefers to suffer in silence at press disclosures.

An internal inquiry to discover a "mole" within the Ministry of Defence is expected to follow yesterday's publication. The letter discloses the reasons for Prince Edward's recent decision to abandon his Marines' officer training course.

Whitehall anger over failure to ban satellite story

By Michael Evans and Martin Fletcher

There was anger and confusion in Whitehall yesterday when it was admitted that the revelations in the *New Statesman* spy satellite article only appeared because agents acting for the Treasury Solicitor could not find Mr Duncan Campbell on Wednesday night to serve him with an injunction.

Although the injunction did not specifically mention the name of the magazine, the wording was intended to prevent Mr Campbell from publishing any of the information which he had in his possession relating to the top secret Project Zircon, the Ministry of Defence research programme to build a spy satellite.

The injunction had to be served on Mr Campbell personally but this was not done until Thursday, by which time the *New Statesman* was already on sale.

Yesterday Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, speaking on Independent Radio News, said that the public would be "disgusted" that the magazine had published plans for a British spy satellite, taken from a BBC television programme which had been banned on grounds of national security.

She said: "They don't expect people to behave that way. This has been published by a left-wing publication. I find that very significant."

It was claimed yesterday that Mrs Thatcher was furious with Mr George Younger, the Defence Secretary, for failing to stop the facts about the spy satellite from being published, and handed over responsibility for damage limitation to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary.

But this was another example of the confusion which seemed to have gripped Whitehall yesterday. In fact the responsibility was given to Sir Geoffrey because it had been acknowledged in an affidavit to the High Court, for the injunction application, that the secret defence project involved GCHQ, the intelligence-gathering centre, which is part of the Foreign Office domain.

Once the contents of the affidavit, written by Sir Peter Marchant, the director of GCHQ, became public knowledge, Mrs Thatcher decided it was right for the Foreign Office to take charge.

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, was still considering yesterday whether to take legal action against Mr Campbell.

In the Commons, Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the House, announced that there would be a full debate next Tuesday arising out of the Speaker's decision on Thursday to ban the screening of the BBC film to MPs.

Poll dismissed as a 'rogue result'

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

A shock opinion poll by Gallup, showing Labour with a 35 per cent lead was being dismissed yesterday as a rogue result totally out of line with the trend contained in other recent polls.

The Gallup poll reported respective party support as Labour 39.5 per cent, Conservatives 34.5 per cent, Alliance 23.5 per cent and others 2.5 per cent.

Tory morale will be restored rapidly by news that an as yet unpublished MORI poll, taken between January 9 and 13 and involving 1,700 people in 163 constituencies - nearly twice the Gallup sample of 910 electors - gives the Conservatives a 5 per cent lead, with party support at Conservatives 42 per cent, Labour 37 per cent, Alliance 19 per cent and others 2 per cent.

The MORI result is in line with the 5 per cent lead recorded for the Tories in a Harris poll conducted on January 10 and 11 and also in an NOP poll conducted between January 7 and January 14. A Marplan poll conducted from January 9 to January 12 gave the Tories a two point lead.

MPs were astonished by the latest Gallup figures because it was Gallup who gave the Conservatives a 6.5 per cent lead over Labour in December, several points more than was indicated by most other polls.

The latest figures produced by Gallup represent a 13.5 per cent fluctuation in the Tory vote over a month. The Gallup poll was conducted for *The Daily Telegraph* from January 14 to January 20, later than the others.

But a Harris poll conducted since Gallup left the field and due to be published tomorrow's *Observer* is expected to confirm the Conservative lead.

Mr Bob Wybrow, a Gallup director, said yesterday that the weather could have been a factor in the surprise poll findings.

The pound dropped two cents in early trading yesterday following the Gallup result.

But senior Tory strategists refuse to set much store at present either by the 5 per cent Conservative lead indicated in a majority of polls or by the surprising Gallup figures.

Argyll buys Safeway

Argyll Group, the food company headed by Mr James Gulliver, is to pay £681 million for the Safeway supermarket chain in the biggest takeover in British food retailing. The takeover of the chain with its 132 supermarkets will double the size of Argyll, creating a group with sales of £2.8 billion and 9 per cent of the packaged grocery business. Mr Gulliver - who lost the

takeover battle for Distillers to Guinness - has bounced back to become the fourth largest grocer behind Sainsbury, Tesco and Decca.

Argyll already runs the Presto supermarket chain. The deal was given a good reception in the City but some analysts were concerned that Mr Gulliver may have paid over the odds for Safeway. Details, page 21

Van Gogh's flowers may make £10m

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Christie's are to sell "Sunflowers" a Van Gogh from the Chester Beatty collection, in London on March 30, it was announced yesterday.

It is expected to make more than any picture previously sold at auction. Christie's are talking of a price in excess of £10 million, the previous record being £8.1 million for a Mantegna.

Van Gogh painted seven pictures of sunflowers to decorate his studio at Arles in 1888, a few months before his death. They are among the most famous images of Western art and most are now in

view of shortage of funds, it would have been difficult to justify its purchase and we had to decline the offer."

The painting comes from the superb collection formed by Sir Alfred Chester Beatty and his wife Edith in the 1920s and 1930s. Beatty opened up the Zambian copper belt and made a vast fortune as a mining engineer. Impressionist paintings and oriental manuscripts were his special passion. He left his library to the Elre government.

Mr Neil Macgregor, director of the National Gallery in London, said yesterday: "We already have a particularly fine example of the subject so

Warning as Blakelock jurors are followed

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

A jury at the Central Criminal Court trying six people accused of murdering PC Keith Blakelock during the disturbances in Tottenham, north London, was sent home early yesterday after two jurors complained of being followed and photographed.

On the third day of the trial Mr Justice Hodgson read out the text of a note he had received from the jury.

It said: "We are concerned that two of our number were pursued and photographed while leaving the building yesterday evening. Where do we stand legally? If such actions are permissible, how can we avoid any future similar occurrence? Can prints and negatives be recovered and publication suppressed?"

The judge told the jury the incident had been insufficient. "I can well understand that you are all feeling under considerable strain and pressure."

The judge pointed out that if the incident was repeated it might constitute a serious offence which could be dealt with as a contempt of court. He told the jury there was not the remotest suspicion that the photographing had anything whatsoever to do with the six on trial.

"Who it was we do not yet know, we may never know," he said. "But I have given permission for the police to speak to you and if you can give them any information I should be very grateful."

Jobs for 2,300 at new mill

A £215 million paper mill to be built at Irvine, Ayrshire, where unemployment stands at 25 per cent, will provide work for 2,300 people, it was announced yesterday.

The mill, owned by Kymmene-Stromberg, of Finland, is the largest single investment in Scotland by a foreign company. It will provide employment over two years for about 1,500 construction workers.

When completed in 1990, the mill will produce high-quality paper and provide 480 jobs. Another 300 will be created in harvesting, and 100 in support service industries. The investment represents a significant achievement for Locate in Scotland, the joint initiative of the Scottish Development Agency and the Scottish Office.

Mr Malcolm Riffind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said yesterday: "I am pleased by the prospect of the introduction of the latest paper-making technology in Scotland. The announcement is vindication also of the policy of expanding our wood resources."

The plant will be built on an 80-acre site at Meadowhead. Supplies of the 200,000 tonnes a year of spruce pulp wood needed will come primarily from the West of Scotland. Strathclyde Regional Council estimates that with revenues from rates and the increased spending power of employees, more than £5 million a year extra will enter the local economy.

Telecom strike could cripple 500,000 phones

By Tim Jones

As Britain faced a potentially crippling telephone strike from midnight on Sunday, senior civil servants were preparing to tell the Government the system will deteriorate at the rate of 24,000 telephones a week.

The effect on business could become devastating because British Telecom faces a huge backlog of repairs after the severe weather. By early next week, up to 500,000 telephones could be out of action. Breakdowns will be blamed mainly on the antiquated nature of much equipment.

The Government has prepared a secret contingency plan to maintain vital communications between the departments of state. It is understood that Government offices in London and the provinces are linked by a back-up system installed for such an emergency.

As members of the National Communications Union yesterday refused to give undertakings to work normally, Mr John Golding, the general secretary, said: "BT management's dog in a manger attitude is bringing the company to the edge of disaster. Their pig-headed determination to engage in a trial of strength is going to damage the company for years to come."

"It is obvious that they have entered a bunker in telecommunications headquarters and they are determined to stay there until the business is destroyed. The quicker common sense prevails and we get round the table, the better."

Mr Michel Bett, BT's head of inland communications, said: "Since the present dispute started, the company has been doing all it can to minimize disruption to customers. That is why we have not been prepared to allow staff who have disrupted British Telecom's service by industrial action to return to work without an assurance that they would then work normally."

Although the dispute ostensibly concerns the rejection by the union of a backdated pay deal worth an estimated 7 per cent, it has developed to embrace long-standing ideological differences.

Yesterday dozens of BT's 6,500 local exchanges experienced mechanical difficulties. At the Stock Exchange, which has 7,500 telephones, business was reported to be normal, although BT shares fell by 3p.

Mr Luke Glass, a Stock Exchange spokesman, said about a third of its telephones were now with Mercury Communications, BT's main rival. But Mr David Gibbons, of brokers James Capel, said that Mercury and the cellular radio companies were still reliant on BT.

Lloyds and Abbey National found yesterday that some east London branches were unable to connect with the head computer, while Morgan Guaranty, the London finance company, was reported to have been out of touch with New York for two nights.

Last night, union volunteers dealt with faults when the fire brigade switched back at Forest Gate, east London, went out of action. Among the worst hit was British Midland Airways, whose Liverpool Airport reservations number was out of action.

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Jonathan Miller, page 16

Thatcher and Hurd support Anderton

By Ian Smith and Michael Evans

The Prime Minister and the Home Secretary publicly gave their support yesterday to Mr James Anderton, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, who is under pressure from his police authority to resign after his controversial remarks about his divine mission to speak out against the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids).

Mrs Margaret Thatcher said she was "very glad that some people have spoken out" about the spread of Aids. "Some people have made their position very clear - thank goodness for that," she added.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, whose officials saw Mr Anderton and three representatives of the Manchester Police Authority on Thursday to try to mediate

in the row over his recent public statements, expressed his hope that the two sides could resolve their differences.

"I know James Anderton reasonably well and I have a high regard for him both as a chief constable and a man," he said. He predicted that Mr Anderton would still be chief constable in 12 months' time.

The boost for Mr Anderton came after two senior Home Office officials persuaded him during the talks on Thursday to have a full meeting with the chairman and deputy of the Labour-led police authority on Tuesday in London. There was general hope in Whitehall yesterday that the differences could be resolved then.

However members of the police authority made it clear

Continued on page 20, col 8

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Portfolio Gold

There is £12,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition - the weekly prize of £8,000 plus the daily £4,000.
The £4,000 prize yesterday was shared by two readers. Details, page 3.
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Schools too readily write off pupils as dull says Baker

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, accused schools yesterday of being "far too ready to write off children as dull or slow or difficult" and then proving the point by offering them too little.

In a wide-ranging attack on the education system, Mr Baker said only the more able school-leavers were being offered qualifications that were valued by employers and society.

He described the curriculum as being "aimed disproportionately at those capable of readily communicating

facts and coping with theory". He added: "For too many children it seems that our system sets out to discover what they cannot do and then tests them and fails them on that basis".

He also criticized the teaching of individual subjects. He said raising standards in English was "one of the biggest tasks", radical changes were needed in mathematics, many science courses were out of date, and much history teaching was "unbalanced".

Mr Baker was addressing the annual conference in London of the Society of

Education Officers. He told his audience that they would "do a disservice to the cause of education and to the nation" if they entrenched themselves in a defence of the status quo.

In a surprising departure from current right-wing thinking, Mr Baker also rejected the idea of dividing pupils into different streams.

He said: "I see no virtue in dividing pupils into the academic and non-academic, let alone in trying to construct an academic curriculum for some, a technical curriculum for others, and for yet others a vocational curriculum".

Instead, he said, the Government's aim was that all pupils should study a core curriculum of "not less than five" subjects, including English, mathematics, science and history.

Its "long-term" objective was to raise the achievement of 80 to 90 per cent of all school-leavers "up to and above" the level now attained by the average, which is CSE grade four.

"We should now move quickly to a school curriculum governed by national criteria."

● Ten head and deputy head teachers from Surrey are going back to school to sharpen up on school management techniques and financial planning (Mark Dowd writes).

During the next 18 months, the team of senior staff, selected by Surrey County Council from 50 applicants, will spend more than 300 hours with tutors from the International Management Centre from Buckingham, an independent business school.

Mrs Anne Stokes, a deputy head at Bishop Wand Secondary School in Sunbury-on-Thames, said yesterday at the formal launch of the programme that there were many areas in which senior staff can learn from the marketing strategies.

Lecturers protest at new pay offer

By Our Education Correspondent

The Government announced yesterday that it was offering an extra £167 million over the next three years for university lecturers' pay.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, described it as a "very substantial" sum and said he hoped it would "do a lot to stop the brain drain getting any greater".

But the Association of University Teachers, which has threatened to refuse to mark this year's final examinations, said it was "bitterly disappointed".

It also contested Mr Baker's figures, arguing that the true sum was £71 million over three years, equivalent to an extra 10 per cent on the pay bill.

The association is demanding 24 per cent over two years.

Mr Baker said there was to be an extra £40 million in 1987-88; £56 million in 1988-89; and £71 million in 1989-90. The association objects that the last two figures merely double count the £40 million for the first year.

Miss Diana Warwick, general secretary of the association, said: "Mr Baker has effectively dumped the responsibility for sorting out the universities on the vice-chancellors and us. It is very difficult to be optimistic."

● Teachers held out the prospect yesterday of a campaign of passive resistance in schools in England and Wales if, as they privately expect, the House of Lords passes the Teachers' Pay and Conditions Bill which peers will be debating next week.

The resistance will be directed at the 19-point contract which spells out teachers' professional obligations.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said that "trouble" was inevitable and would "not necessarily" consist of strikes.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, deputy general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said his 128,000 members would be advised to "do the minimum".



"Sunflowers", the Van Gogh painting which auctioneers expect to fetch in excess of £10 million when it goes on sale in March, being examined by Mr Peter Rose of Christie's (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Tube star is suspended for swearing

Mr Jools Holland, presenter of Channel 4's *The Tube* rock show, was suspended for six weeks yesterday by Tyne Tees Television for swearing on children's TV last week.

He was first suspended on Friday of last week for using a four-letter word during a networked trailer for the programme broadcast at tea time.

It was punishment for his "unacceptable language". Mr Holland, aged 29, has since apologized in writing and Tyne Tees said it had taken that, and his loyal service, into account when reaching its decision.

Questions on brain death

By Jill Sherman

Two Cambridge doctors opposed to existing criteria for diagnosing brain stem death, were questioned yesterday by Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, chairman of the Conference of Royal Colleges, who is leading an inquiry into the shortage of organs for transplants.

Dr David Wainwright Evans, a cardiologist at Papworth Hospital, and Dr David Hill, an anaesthetist at Addenbrooke's Hospital, were among a number of specialists giving evidence to Sir Raymond whose working party was in session at the Royal College of Physicians.

He hopes to report to the

Government this summer with recommendations on how the problem, which has resulted in thousands of people waiting for heart, liver and kidney transplants, can be overcome.

One of the working party's main concerns is why some doctors are reluctant to ask relatives about patients clearly in no fit state to be consulted about their own wishes, and why relatives are reluctant to give consent for the organs to be removed.

Sir Raymond has claimed that recent publicity about the Cambridge doctors' opposition to the current criteria for

establishing brain death has led to a number of people withdrawing their donor cards.

"We are trying to find more about what the problems might be in providing an adequate number of organs for transplantation. One of them is the possibility that the public are anxious about brain death criteria."

He refused to comment on what occurred at the meeting and said that the committee had decided to reserve any public statements till after all the evidence had been collected.

Letters, page 17

Portfolio Gold Winner is to visit the sales

The joint winner of yesterday's Portfolio Gold plans to visit the sales to buy a washing machine with her half share of the £4,000 prize.

Miss Jennifer Sapsford, aged 36, of Norman Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire, works as a radio operator for a taxi firm. She has played Portfolio for seven months.

A holiday might also be on the agenda later in the year, thanks to her Portfolio win, she added.

She shared the £4,000 prize with Mr Harold Holgate, aged 69, a retired Civil Servant, who lives in Kentford Road, Kent's Bank, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria.

He and his wife Anne have three grown-up children and one granddaughter.

"I was quite pleased really, when I heard I had won, adding that he had not made a definite decision about spending the money yet, but thought an overseas holiday was a probability."

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Mr Harold Holgate, who might take a holiday

TV expert had never done stunt

An escapologist employed by the BBC to train Michael Lush to jump on an elastic rope for a television stunt said yesterday that he had no real experience of the sensation.

Mr Paul Matthews, who said he had 30 years' experience of magic and 20 years as an escapologist, was giving evidence on the third day of an inquest at Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

Mr Lush, aged 25, an unemployed food carrier, of Hobb Lane, Hedge End, near Southampton, died on November 13 when he plunged 120ft to the ground during training for the stunt, due to be screened live on the Noel Edmonds' *Late Late Breakfast Show*.

A bungee rope attached to him failed to arrest his fall as planned, the inquest has been told.

Mr Matthews told the jury that his only experience of bungee jumping was from a height of 40ft from a platform in a tree close to his home, in Hertford Road, Brighton, East Sussex.

Mr Rodney Corner, the North Buckinghamshire coroner, asked Mr Matthews: "Have you ever dropped from a height attached to a bungee rope?" He replied: "Not dropped".

Mr Corner asked: "Have you ever dropped from a height as Michael Lush was going to do?" Mr Matthews replied: "Not dropped, no".

He said that in the relatively short drops he had made using a bungee rope, he had fitted mountaineering-type clips like those he used for the stunt for which Mr Lush was being trained.

Mr Corner asked: "Did you understand and were being retained as the professional and expert for this stunt?" Mr Matthews replied: "Yes".

The hearing continues on Monday.

PC says he saw TV celebrity at sex parties

A policeman told the Cynthia Payne trial yesterday that he twice saw Terry Jones, star of the Monty Python television show, when he went to parties at her house.

Police Constable Stewart Taylor said at the Inner London Crown Court that on the first occasion in December 1985 he had been in an upstairs bedroom with a tattooed girl called Annie.

He told the court that he had told the girl that he was too tired for sex and as they made their way downstairs they passed a group of people.

"I recognized one of the men in the group as Terry Jones, the TV personality."

PC Taylor, who had posed as a man called Peter Tollington to gain entrance to the house, said he went to his second party at Mrs Payne's house in Ambleside Avenue, Streatham, south London in February 1986 with PC John Jones, whom he introduced as his brother-in-law.

During the party he again saw Mr Jones. He was in the lounge with a group of friends, he said.

Mrs Payne, aged 53, has denied 10 charges of controlling prostitution.

PC Taylor described how Mrs Payne organized a candlelit floor show between two lesbians, placing cushions and a blanket on the floor of her lounge.

Two women came in and gyrated provocatively to music, undressed each other and ended up writhing on the floor.

He said that Mrs Payne stepped forward and indicated that they should swap sides, which they did, showing, he said, that she was directing their movements.

PC Taylor said Mrs Payne acted at the parties "with a certain bustling efficiency".

She spoke loudly and with authority, he said, often making introductions which led to couples going upstairs to the bedrooms.

The court was told Mrs Payne publicized her parties by letter.

One she sent to PC Taylor gave the address as "The House of a Thousand and One Delights".

Miss Theresa Banks, a former photographic model, said that she was massaging a client called Sydney Mills with oil when police raided the house on May 30 last year.

Miss Banks, aged 49, said that she had been wearing a pink dress, but took it off so she did not get oil on it, while Mr Mills had only removed his shirt for the massage.

But when shown a photograph taken as police burst in on them, she said: "Oh yes, he did have his bottom half off."

Miss Banks denied ever receiving money for sexual services, and said Mr Mills was an old friend.

She said while she was working as a model Mrs Payne had provided telephone numbers for contacts.

Mr Tony Longden, for the prosecution, said that in a statement made to police after the raid, Miss Banks allegedly said: "I came here to have a good time and earn a few quid."

But yesterday Miss Banks denied saying that.

Keith Savage, a transvestite, said that an undercover policeman put his hand up his skirt and fondled his bottom during the raid.

Mr Savage, who said he was dressed as a French maid, said 30 to 40 police officers burst in when the party was in full swing.

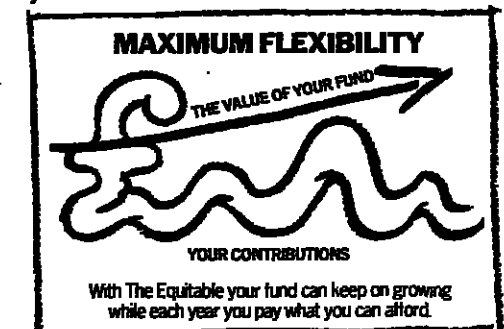
During the commotion one boisterous policeman got "a bit over-friendly", he said.

"He put his hands round my skirt on to my bottom," he said.

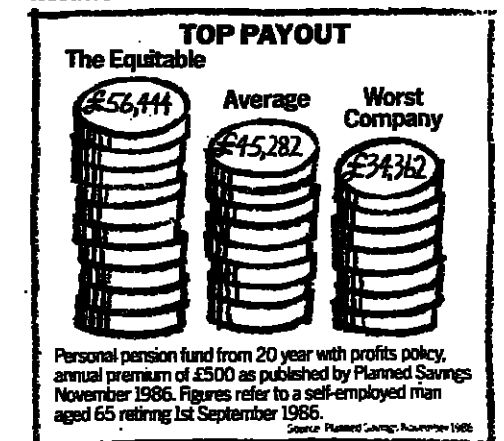
Monica Tobon-Ingram, a prostitute, told police that her sex sessions in Mrs Payne's bedrooms lasted for 10 to 15 minutes. One the night of the raid she told police she earned £80.

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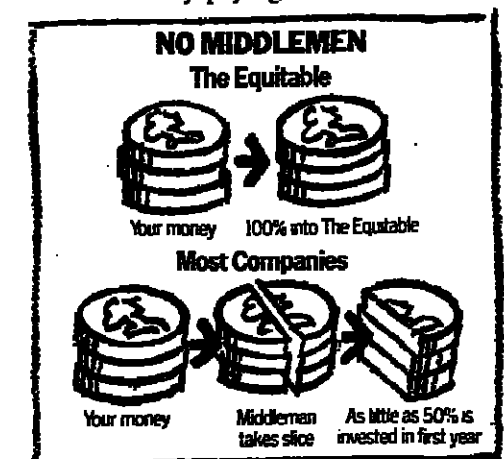


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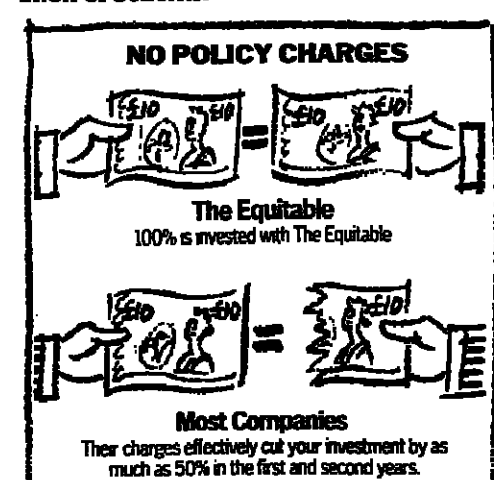
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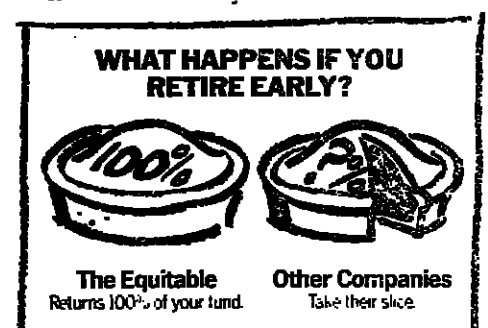
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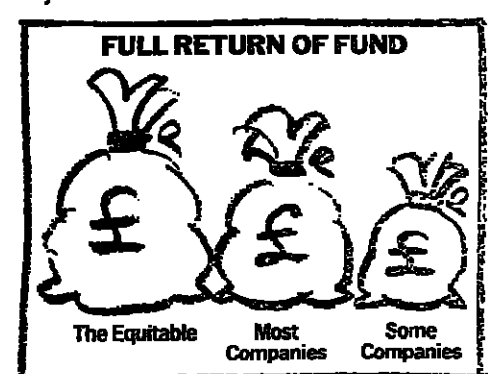
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Fund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Far Eastern Fund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Money Fund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gilt & Fixed Interest Fund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special Situations Fund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fund of Investment Trusts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High Income Fund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Growth Fund
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Sale room £4,950 for early golf ball

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A golf ball was sold for £4,950 yesterday, more than doubling the previous auction price record.

The feathery golf balls made in the mid-nineteenth century are what golf fanatics long to own. This one was made by William Gourlay around 1850 and is in near mint condition. Its weight, written on it in ink, is still clearly visible.

Phillips' golf sale in Chester scored a run of exceptional prices, particularly among the books. G Robb's *Historical Gossip About Golf and Golfers*, published in 1863, was sold Edinburgh for £12,320 (estimate £2,000 to £4,000) to Bruce Marshall, a

Glasgow book dealer. The third edition of Thomas Mathison's *The Golf, An Heroic Comical Poem of 1793* secured £10,560 (estimate £8,000 to £12,000).

Murder was the key-note at Christie's sale of arms and sporting guns. The collection of arms and memorabilia of trials in which Marshall Hall, the Rumpole of the twenties, had defended clients charged with murder, was sold for £3,960 to an unnamed British collector.

Marshall Hall took silk in 1898 and had a keen interest in firearms.

The collection included the pistol with which "Prince"

Fahmy Bey was murdered by his wife, a Bowie knife which slit the victim in the "peeping Tom" murder on Doncaster racecourse and mementoes of many other famous crimes. The collection had been sold by Christie's in 1980 for £1,320.

Christie's routine sale of Old Master pictures made £386,958, with 27 per cent left unsold. The top price was £44,000 (estimate £3,000 to £4,000) for a painting of "The Good Samaritan" catalogued by Christie's as by a follower of Jacopo Bassano. The high price probably indicates that the bidders think they know who it is by.

WORLD SUMMARY

Iran rebuffs 'new approach by US'

Tehran (Reuters) — President Ali Khamenei, below, said yesterday that US officials made a new attempt to contact Iran, but were rebuffed.

"The Americans tried hard to make contact," Mr Khamenei said in a sermon at Tehran's main Friday prayer meeting. "This time their State Department officials with great difficulty found those intelligence agents of ours who had been involved in the McFarlane affair and attempted to pursue the same issues."

● **BAHRAIN:** Iran yesterday rejected a peace offer from Iraq after firing missiles into Baghdad and Basra (Reuters reports). Iraq threatened "devastating punishment" for the raids, in which several civilians were killed.

Tehran Radio said Iranian forces killed or wounded 2,000 Iraqis on Thursday night while advancing west of Basra.

Shift on US bases

Athens — Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, expressed publicly for the first time yesterday his willingness to negotiate a continued US military presence if it secured adequate returns for Greece (Mario Mediano writes).

He did not elaborate, arguing that he wanted to keep "a few troops" up his sleeve. Greece receives about \$500 million (£325 million) a year in US military credits. Mr Papandreu was speaking in Parliament to counter opposition criticism that his government's foreign policy was alienating western support for Greece.

Chad says 193 killed

Ndjamena (AFP) — Chad Government forces killed 193 Libyan soldiers and captured 22 when they took control on Wednesday of the strategic north-western oasis of Zouar after a three-week confrontation with Libyan forces.

A spokesman for President Habré of Chad claimed that the Zouar region had been completely cleaned up and that Government forces had lost only 10 dead and a small amount of equipment in the fighting. A Libyan spokesman said however, that the fighting is between the Chad Government and its opponents, with no Libyan troops involved.

Drink-drive furore

Paris — M Alain Chalonand, the French Justice Minister, has announced that the Government is preparing tougher penalties for drunken drivers after public anger over a one-year suspended prison sentence was given to a man who caused the death of a model, aged 24, after an evening spent drinking with friends (Diana Geddes writes).

M Chalonand has asked the Public Prosecutor to appeal against the sentence handed down by a court in Nanterre against Michel Barant, aged 37, an insurance consultant. The Minister complained that courts were often too indulgent with drunken drivers.

It is estimated that alcohol is responsible for 4,000 of the 11,000 deaths on French roads every year. Anne Cellier died after "appalling suffering" as a result of injuries she received when M Barant's vehicle, travelling at 93 mph, ran into the back of her car on a motorway outside Paris.

Chilean recall

Santiago — The Chilean Interior Ministry has published a new list of 154 exiles who will be allowed to return to their homeland after up to 13 years abroad (Lake Sagor writes). But the Chilean Human Rights Commission says that the problem of exiles is far from resolved.

Thousands fled the country after the armed forces seized power in 1973, killing the President, Dr Salvador Allende, and many of his supporters.

Bokassa accused

Bangui, Central African Republic (AP) — For the first time since his trial began over a month ago, testimony has implicated directly former Emperor Jean-Bédel Bokassa in murder. Three soldiers told yesterday of being ordered in 1979 to murder a Frenchman, M Edmond Broudy, accused of brandishing a pistol. They said Bokassa was furious when he found Broudy had permits for weapons and could not be arrested.

Doubt on Machel plot

Johannesburg — A retired British deputy Director of Civil Aviation, Mr William Young, told the inquiry into the air crash which killed President Machel of Mozambique last October that he did not think a decoy radio beacon a likely cause of the disaster (Michael Horsby writes).

The theory of a "rogue" radio signal, supposedly transmitted by the South Africans to lure the plane to its doom, has dominated the inquiry proceedings, which began on January 20, over the past two days. Mr Young is an expert on radar and radio interference.

India moves up troops on Pakistan border

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

India raised the stakes yesterday in the growing tension on the border with Pakistan by moving military formations closer to the frontier in Punjab. At the same time, according to the Defence Ministry, Delhi proposed mutual withdrawals.

Pakistan's Ambassador, Dr Humayun Khan, was summoned to the External Affairs Ministry to be told of the action taken.

The Defence Ministry said Indian Army units had moved into defensive positions along

the border and that if Pakistan did not respond to the proposal for speedy de-escalation, "we may have to occupy our defences in Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir".

The tension started to increase last autumn, when Pakistan began objecting to India's three-yearly winter exercises which were building up to the border. Pakistan's own annual manoeuvres have also taken place since, but the forces deployed were not withdrawn from their positions when the exercises ended.

Fowler predicts Aids campaign boost

From Thompson Prentice New York

The Government will soon announce new measures aimed at fighting the spread of Aids among drug addicts. Ministers are increasingly concerned that the general population is at risk from the epidemic among addicts.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, said here yesterday that the next phase of the British Aids campaign will be targeted at intravenous drug abusers.

"This is one of the most serious problems that we face in trying to control the spread of the disease," he said. "It is also one of the principal ways that Aids gets into the heterosexual population."

Mr Fowler conceded that the Government experimental scheme to issue sterile needles to addicts in exchange for old

and possibly contaminated ones would not in itself solve the problem.

He said that the crisis among addicts in New York was the chief reason for his visit there yesterday with Sir Donald Acheson, the Government's chief medical officer.

The city is the worst affected in America, with about 9,000 cases, including 5,000 deaths so far. The casualties are three times higher than in San Francisco, the second worst affected city, and account for almost one third of all Aids cases in the United States.

About six out of 10 intravenous drug abusers in New York are believed to be carrying the virus. An experimental needle-exchange scheme similar to that being tested in some British cities has been introduced.

The Government's concern is founded on expert advice

Defiant Reagan will not give up the dirty war

Whatever his regrets over the Iran affair, President Reagan is determined not to sacrifice the Contras, or as he prefers to call them, the Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua. But if congressional enthusiasm for their cause was only lukewarm a few months ago, it has now all but disappeared. The Contras, in most people's minds, have been the real undoing of the Reagan Administration.

Fekless, faint-hearted, corrupt, ineffective and linked to dubious middlemen, mercenaries and drug dealers, they have dragged the Administration into a dirty and hypocritical war which it is increasingly clear they cannot win. It is the Contra link that is the real scandal of the Iran arms affair, the disappearance of the money that suggests criminal wrongdoing.

That is not President Reagan's view. Support for the Contras is a touchstone of conservatives in the Administration. In most of his few public statements about Iran, Mr Reagan has appealed to the US not to abandon the Contras, not to allow the diversion of funds to weaken their cause.

Defiantly, he is asking for an increase in military and humanitarian aid, proposing \$105 million (\$68.5 million) in Contra funding for the 1988 budget. "It is the one thing he will not give up," a White House aide said.

But he knows he will have a bitter fight over the issue. Mr Frank

Washington View

By Michael Binyon

Carlucci, the able and experienced National Security Adviser, recognizes that this will be the most contentious foreign policy issue over the coming year. Indeed he is planning to visit Central America himself soon, so that he can see for himself the situation, without having to rely on partisan assessments.

He may not like what he finds. The mood in Managua at present is more buoyant than it has been for years, according to recent visitors. The Sandinistas believe they already have the Contras beaten in the field, and the political challenge appears also to be fading. Despite

the new arms that are now flowing to the groups in the northern jungles, the Nicaraguan forces are confident they have the weapons, training and morale to take on the guerrillas who are still not trained sufficiently to handle Stinger missiles.

But ironically, observers here believe the Contras will not be liquidated — at least not for two years — as both Washington and Managua have a vital interest in keeping them alive.

If the Administration was told starkly the Contras were finished, and it had therefore the alternative of recognizing the entrenchment of the Sandinistas or using US forces to get them out, President Reagan would probably choose the latter. He has admitted that the end of the Sandinista Government is his real objective. He has painted a dire picture of the consequences of their victory. He has staked his reputation on not letting communism gain a foothold on the American mainland.

Mr Elliott Abrams, his combative Assistant Secretary of State, has openly stated that if the Contras

cannot do the job, the US Marines may have to. But an attempt to mount an invasion would now cause uproar in the country and in Congress. As long as the Contras are there, the fiction of intervention by proxy can be maintained.

For the same reason, the Sandinistas do not want to crush the Contras completely. As long as their pinpricks can be confined to the border zones and the sparsely populated jungles, they are no military threat. Indeed their existence is essential as justification for curbing opposition in Nicaragua, enforcing "emergency" regulations, curbing the flag of patriotism in the face of outside aggression. They have probably been advised by Moscow to sit it out for two more years. It is unlikely that any future US President will support the Contras with Mr Reagan's zeal.

Meanwhile, the scepticism here mounts daily. The latest revelations suggest that some Contra groups have been using the CIA-sponsored airline, Southern Air, for drug smuggling, as well as weapons drops.

The riddle of the missing millions

donated by the Sultan of Brunei to the Contras has still not been solved, nor has any of the missing Iran arms money been found.

Opponents of US involvement in the Contra war are nevertheless cautious. The Democrats still cannot afford to be seen as soft on communism.

They will probably therefore vote for at least some new aid for the Contras. The debate will be fierce, the contempt for the Contras widely voiced.

But opponents of the guerrilla war are convinced that time is not on the side of the Contras, and sooner or later the US will cut its losses.

● **Public scepticism:** Two-thirds of Americans think that President Reagan is not doing all he could to determine the facts about the Iran arms scandal, according to a Washington Post-ABC news poll (Mohsin Ali writes). The poll of 1,505 people taken on January 15-19 showed sharply increased public scepticism about the White House handling of the Iran arms affair, with 60 per cent disapproving of Mr Reagan's conduct of foreign affairs.

Habib visit airs US-Europe animosity over Contras policy

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Strong disagreement between the US and Europe over Washington's policy in Nicaragua was aired openly yesterday as an American search for European understanding, even if not acceptance, of the use of force against the Sandinista Government fell flat.

Mr Philip Habib, President Reagan's special envoy on Central America, flew from London to Paris on the last leg of a seven-nation tour. But he was expected to find no more encouragement there than in London and other capitals.

Throughout his tour, Mr Habib has met strong opposition to the use of force against the Government in Managua through arming the Contra rebels.

His discussions in London with Mr David Gillmore, deputy under-secretary for Latin America, produced clear disagreement. Mr Habib presented President Reagan's case for a two-track approach to Nicaragua, backing diplomatic efforts with military support for the Contra rebels.

His argument that diplomacy without force would not bring about genuine democracy in Nicaragua gained weight in the light of the failure this week of renewed efforts by the Contadora group of Latin American nations to negotiate a settlement. Contadora foreign ministers have said that their peace-making tour failed to find the political will for reconciliation.

A US official said that Mr Habib had stressed that Europe gave too little importance to the views of

democratically-elected governments surrounding Nicaragua.

The official quoted President Arias of Costa Rica as having said: "We didn't like Somoza — now we have got nine Somozas". President Somoza, succeeded by his sons, led Nicaragua until the Sandinista coup of 1979.

Mr Gillmore stressed Britain's opposition to a military solution and support for the Contadora group, which comprises Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama, plus five supporting nations. Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, had planned to present Britain's reply to Mr Habib, but was instead called to meet with Mrs

Thatcher, the Prime Minister. Mr Habib's prospects in Paris look bleak. M Jean-Bernard Raimond, the French Foreign Minister, is opposed to force, but has shown a lack of enthusiasm for the Sandinistas by redistributing French aid. Paris is now sending less to Nicaragua and more to its neighbours.

The timing of Mr Habib's tour is linked to an important meeting in Guatemala City on February 9 between foreign ministers of the EEC, Central America and Contadora. The meeting is likely to strengthen Europe's peace-making role at the expense of Washington's influence.

Known as "San José 3", the meeting will also aim to forge closer economic links. Lady Young, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is to represent Britain.

Unions resist call for Duarte strike

From Alan Tomlinson, San Salvador

Union leaders here ignored appeals yesterday from business leaders, backed by the main right-wing opposition party, the National Republican Alliance (ARENA), to turn a shutdown of shops, factories and private companies into a general strike.

Left-wing guerrillas kept traffic off the roads and right-wing shopkeepers shut their businesses in an attempt to squeeze President Duarte out of office.

Under attack from all sides, Señor Duarte has shrugged off calls for his resignation, while the Army has discounted rumours of an impending coup.

Though his popularity has been damaged severely by lack of progress on the problems confronting the country, the President's position is strengthened by deep distrust among his enemies.

Their mutual aversion has so far remained stronger than their desire to unseat the

Government by uniting against it.

APEN, the private enterprise association, declared the stoppage to have been 97 per cent effective in the capital. Even some sectors traditionally loyal to the President closed.

The commercial boycotts in the cities coincided with a transport stoppage in the countryside, the second this month, as left-wing guerrillas threatened to machine-gun vehicles moving on the roads.

After having carried out such threats during recent similar campaigns, the rebels have succeeded for the first time in stopping traffic in the west of the country, as well as in the east.

They too distanced themselves publicly from the strike action of the right, making clear in clandestine radio broadcasts that theirs was an entirely different agenda for the Government's demise.



A masked Spanish student gesturing at police as he stands next to an overturned car in Madrid yesterday after a march by tens of thousands of students demanding free access to universities. The march degenerated into a series of violent clashes among rival groups of students and police in which two people were injured seriously and several arrested.

Progress on SDI 'dramatic'

From Mohsin Ali Washington

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday that the US is making dramatic progress on the controversial Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) and may be near the day when decisions about deployment of the first phase of strategic defence can be made.

He did not say when such a decision might be taken.

Mr Weinberger cited progress in recent US tests of space-based sensors to track the flight of Soviet nuclear missiles and in lasers which might burn them up in flight.

"There is no doubt the SDI research effort is achieving dramatic results. We are rapidly validating a number of technologies and technical concepts which provide sufficient evidence of the feasibility of a strategic defence system," he told the National Space Foundation at Colorado Springs.

He said that the Soviet Union was spending \$1 billion (£650 million) a year on laser research and moving towards its own nuclear missile defence.

"In some areas, the Soviets have progressed well beyond the research stage."

In a speech to the Denver Rotary Club, Mr Weinberger yesterday strongly denounced as "counter-productive and dangerous" the recent calls in Congress for withdrawal of American forces in Europe. He said that the US would not live in a world in which Western Europe was overrun by the "Soviet hordes".

"Western Europe is freedom's front line and by far the greatest attraction for Soviet ambitions," he said. US troop withdrawals could result in an eventual unravelling of NATO and the neutralization of some of "our strongest allies."

● **LONDON:** Mr Max Kampelman, chief US arms negotiator at the Geneva East-West talks, implied yesterday that agreement was close but gave no hint of a solution on the central problem of Star Wars (Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent, writes).

"We are close to agreement on approximately 50 per cent reduction to equal levels of strategic warheads, and 90 per cent reduction to equal global limits of 100 intermediate warheads each, with none in Europe," he said.

However, in a speech in London to the Royal United Services Institute, he strongly reaffirmed President Reagan's determination to continue research on the Strategic Defence Initiative. "It would be highly imprudent for any American President not to pursue such a programme."

Extensive reform planned to break censorship's shackles

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Some of the most far-reaching reforms of the Gorbachev era are about to be introduced into the stagnating Soviet film industry, which will try to recreate its former glory by a complete re-organization aimed at eliminating the stifling hand of the Communist state censors.

The sweeping changes, which will centre on the granting of editorial and financial independence to individual studios along the lines of those operating in the West, were unveiled yesterday after a special plenary session of the powerful Cinema Workers' Union in which 210 speeches were made.

As part of the shake-up, cinema seat prices will be increased, more popular and controversial films made, bureaucratic control of scripts will be reduced and many Soviet films gathering dust on the censors' shelves will be put on general release.

The move is seen as part of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's campaign to recruit the Soviet intelligentsia into the vanguard of his increasingly tough battle to overthrow the organizational structure of many areas of Soviet society imposed during the now discredited Brezhnev era.

Mr Elem Klimov, aged 53, the recently-elected chief of the union whose own film *Asphalt*, focusing on the antics of Rasputin, was shelved by the censors for 10 years, told a news conference that the reforms represented a unanimous protest by the union against previous Soviet film-making methods.

The respected director explained that many more West-

ern films would now be bought by the Soviet industry for general release here, beginning with *Amadeus* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, made by the émigré Czech director Milos Forman, and a season of Federico Fellini films. He said there would also be a re-organization of the Moscow Film Festival.

Commenting on the reforms, which are expected to bring a new wave of Soviet films to local and international screens by the beginning of 1989, Mr Rolan Bykov, a leading member of the union's secretariat, said: "A studio in the Soviet Union will now be able to run the risk of going under, or being ruined. That is something that has never happened before in a socialist state."

In Western circles, the shake-up is described as the most extreme example yet seen here of efforts by Mr Gorbachev to increase both individual responsibility and financial independence in Soviet industries without giving up the main ideological tenets of Marxism-Leninism.

Under the switch, Mosfilm and other big state studios will be broken down into smaller units, which will then be responsible for financing their own productions. The individual studios will also take over the censorship role formerly carried out by the central state body, Goskino.

"The studios will look for scripts and choose them, shoot the films and prepare them for release," Mr Klimov explained. "We are creating a market for film-makers. If one studio rejects a director's film, he can go to another." The

union leader denied that the reforms would lead to the setting up of private studios.

Other members of the film establishment sharing the platform for the two-hour conference admitted that the reforms posed the risk of "commercialization", but all denied vigorously that making more popular films would involve increasing the amount of sex and violence contained in them, both of which are much more restrained here than in Western films. "Pornography is against the law," Mr Klimov said.

Under the watchful eye of the Kremlin's chief public spokesman, the conference — which could never have been staged two years ago — heard from the Soviet Union's most influential film critic, Mr Andrei Plakhov, about the work of the commission which he heads in reviewing the fate of scores of Soviet films formerly banned by the all-powerful bureaucrats at Goskino.

Mr Plakhov, who formerly worked for *Pravda*, explained that a substantial number of the banned works would soon be put on general release. He told journalists that the commission was working for long hours with the aim of "re-establishing justice".

Yesterday's speakers admitted that the Soviet industry had been losing audiences because of the poor quality of its product, and were especially critical of the facilities for bringing on young directors. It became clear that one purpose of the reforms is to tempt home talented Soviet artists who have emigrated to work in the West.

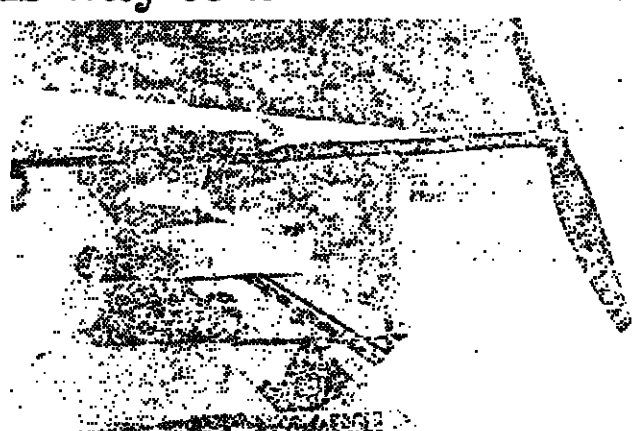
Pedalling his way to a world record

From Ivor Davis Los Angeles

Pedalling his experimental Eagle aircraft 4.5 ft above a dry lake bed, Glenn Tremml, right, a 26-year-old medical student, sets a new world distance record for a human-powered flight at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

Mr Tremml pedalled three times over the 10-mile course, chalking up 37.2 miles in two hours 13 minutes and 14 seconds. He nearly continued further, but a minor mishap caused the plane's wheels to touch down. The trip went ahead even though Mr Tremml said he had pedal and water problems.

When he climbed out of the cockpit on Thursday, clad only in black cycling shorts and a T-shirt, he was jubilant, and said: "You just keep going until you stop. The toughest



thing was that there wasn't a finish line, so I had to keep setting mental goals.

The 92 lb plane, with a wing-span of 114 ft, is a combination windmill bicycle, and is made of a featherweight plastic material.

The craft averaged 16 miles an hour.

On Wednesday, Lois McCullin flew the craft over 10 miles in 37 minutes, 38 seconds, establishing the women's closed-course distance record.

Wave of French unrest puts 'cohabitation' and Chirac under pressure

The strikes, student unrest and pressure on the French franc over the past two months have struck a severe blow at the opinion poll rating of M. Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, and at public attitudes towards the experiment of political cohabitation.

A poll in this week's *Paris Match* shows that M. Chirac's popularity has fallen nine points to 39 per cent, giving him a negative rating in that poll for the first time since becoming Prime Minister 10 months ago. President Mitterrand's rating remained stable at 56 per cent.

Another poll, to be published in Monday's *Le Français*, shows M. Chirac's rating as a potential presidential candidate plunging 19 points over the past three months, while that of M. Raymond Barre, his main rival on the right, has risen a spectacular 16 points.

Asked who would be the best presidential candidate of the right, 41 per cent chose M. Barre compared with only 15 per cent for M. Chirac.

Both of those polls were taken at the height of the rail, electricity and Paris Metro strikes. A third poll, taken after the strikes and the showing on national television of a sympathetic portrait of M. Chirac, suggests that his unpopularity may be short-lived.

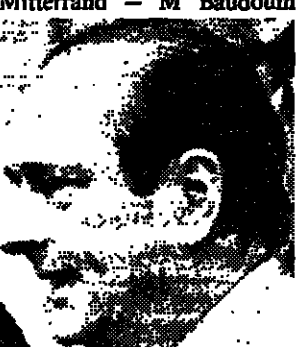
In that poll, published in yesterday's *Express*, his public approval rose one point to 47 per cent, while approval of President Mitterrand fell 7 points to 49 per cent.

In his weekly press briefing yesterday, M. Denis Baudouin, the Prime Minister's spokesman, admitted that most opinion polls were not good for the Government at present, but pointed out that the electorate did not seem to

think any other team would do better.

The wide gap in voting intentions between the right and left has remained stable since the right's victory in the general election last March, he said. Recent by-elections had confirmed that there was no swing away from the Government, despite its difficulties.

Commenting on a poll showing a clear majority of the public now disapproving of cohabitation — the arrangement in which the conservative M. Chirac governs under the Socialist President Mitterrand — M. Baudouin



M. Chirac seeking stronger ties with Parliament.

said that it was not a question of whether cohabitation was good or bad but rather whether the country would prefer the alternative of political crisis.

The Government was determined to avoid a crisis, so cohabitation would continue, he said.

M. Chirac is to hold a presidential-style press conference on Thursday, surrounded by his Ministers, to outline the Government's programme for the coming year after his decision to slow the hectic rate of reform — 49 laws passed in nine months.

Some of the Government's

more controversial projects, such as its university reform Bill and another restricting eligibility for French nationality, have already been abandoned or postponed indefinitely. An extraordinary session of Parliament planned for this month has been called off. Parliament is now due to resume on April 2.

In the interim, M. Chirac intends to explain his policies to the country, to strengthen his relations with Parliament, and to weld the dangerous divisions within the ruling right-wing coalition. Four trips to the provinces are already lined up, starting with a visit to Alsace next Monday.

But the Government's troubles are far from over. Pay talks with the seven unions representing the 4.5 million workers in the public sector broke down on Thursday after the unions rejected an offer of 1.7 per cent this year.

Even some of the more moderate unions are now talking of industrial action. The teachers have already announced a one-day strike for Tuesday.

There are also rumours of more terrorist attacks in the capital if complicity in murder charges are not dropped against Mr Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, alleged leader of the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Front. The Paris Appeal Court is due to rule on Wednesday on whether Mr Abdallah should be sent for trial to the Assize Court.

The same court is to decide on Thursday whether three alleged Direct Action terrorists, charged with killing two French policemen, should be tried before the new non-jury terrorist court, composed of seven judges. A criminal court trial was abandoned because of threats to the jury.



A retired farm worker employing pedal power to take Chinese children to a neighbourhood kindergarten in Shanghai as part of programme in which retired workers involve themselves in community work.

Kohl overcomes TV handicap

Floating voters may spring surprise

From Richard Owen Bonn

Television is not Chancellor Helmut Kohl's natural medium. If — or when, according to the final opinion polls — he wins tomorrow's election, it will be thanks to his personal image and his personal contacts with voters rather than to his television appearances. He often looks uncomfortable on television.

At his final campaign press conference yesterday, Herr Kohl acknowledged that elections in West Germany, as in other democracies, tend to be fought on the television screen. But he made a point of criticising those who had said it would be a television campaign only: attendance at election rallies around the country had been astonishingly high, especially considering the weather, and he had spoken to over half a million voters at 61 rallies to get his message across.

A heartening number at the rallies had been young people, most of them responsible in behaviour with only a minority of teenage hecklers from Communist splinter groups or the Greens.

The hecklers have, in fact, given Herr Kohl a much harder time than this suggests. But West Germans, including the nearly four million first-time voters, do tend to take their democratic duty earnestly. They talk a great deal about democracy and the importance of not taking it for granted.

On the other hand, the lack of exciting issues has made for a dull campaign. Herr Kohl rejected the Social Democrats' proposal for a face-to-face television duel with Herr Johannes Rau, the SPD lead-

er, apparently because the Chancellor's advisers felt that Herr Rau would come off better.

Instead all the party leaders met in a television studio to make their final bids for votes. Yesterday, they all expressed unhappiness with this format (it is known unofficially as "the elephant round" because of the bulk of most of the participants).

But in the event Herr Kohl's performance was relaxed and authoritative, suggesting that he can be a much better television performer than is commonly said. He made no gaffes during the three hours of somewhat confused debate, and had the advantage over Herr Rau of being able to speak in his normal voice.

Herr Rau has become so hoarse in the course of desperate campaigning to retrieve the SPD vote that he could hardly be heard, and had to take repeated swallows of what looked like blackcurrant cordial to carry on.

Because of poor chairmanship rather than a gripping discussion, the election debate overran its allotted two-hour span, though many voters seemed doubtful. Many were irritated when a planned film about the pneumatic Hollywood star Mae West was abandoned so the debate could continue. The legend "Mae West is cancelled" appeared somewhat incongruously over the figure of Frau Jutta Dittfurth, the young feminist and anti-nuclear campaigner chosen by the Greens for their rotating leadership to represent them.

Although the Greens are likely to get just over 8 per cent of the vote, compared to 45 per

cent for the conservative CDU-CSU coalition and just over 37 per cent for the SPD, Frau Dittfurth dominated the debate with Herr Kohl, making the Greens rather than the SPD appear the main opposition party. She was helped by the television station's own research, which showed that environmental protection is West German voters' number one concern.

Frau Dittfurth, hair flowing and a contemptuous anti-bourgeois smile, attacked Herr Kohl for having played on nationalism during the campaign and supporting West Germany's membership of an "aggressive" Nato, accused

her of "propaganda bordering on lies" for suggesting that he wanted to replace Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the Liberal Foreign Minister, in order to reverse West Germany's Ostpolitik altogether.

For a moment it looked as if Herr Bangemann's intervention, designed to persuade voters to support the Liberals and thus keep both the Greens and Herr Strauss out of national office, had stirred the election debate out of its torpor. But it was too late to develop the argument.

Viewers were left with Herr Kohl again confidently outlining his successful middle-of-the-road policies on Nato, nuclear power, unemployment, disarmament and the family. As for his espousal of German national pride and identity, young Germans had to confront the past and learn from it, he said.

Tomorrow will see whether he has convinced the 45 million West German voters, 18 per cent of whom — according to the television poll — have not yet made up their minds for whom they are going to vote.

"You have been keeping a

German view, Page 16

dossier on us," Frau Dittfurth said accusingly. "Not at all, these are public statements," Herr Bangemann protested.

At this point the debate came alive, and Herr Strauss, who at 71 still nurses ministerial ambitions and has been playing a new-found role as the voice of moderation and restraint, produced a last-minute riposte to Herr Kohl's attack on the "illusions" of détente.

He accused the Liberal FDP of "propaganda bordering on lies" for suggesting that he wanted to replace Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the Liberal Foreign Minister, in order to reverse West Germany's Ostpolitik altogether.

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WEST GERMAN ELECTIONS

Herr Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the CSU in Bavaria, of wanting to be Foreign Minister and sell German arms to fuel Third World conflicts, and dismissed Herr Rau as a fake socialist.

Only Herr Martin Bangemann, the FDP leader and Economics Minister, was able to turn the tables by producing a thick folder of quotations from Green leaders recommending and justifying the use of force and violence in opposing the deployment of nuclear weapons or the construction of atomic power stations.

Small parties with impossible Bundestag dreams

From John England Bonn

West Germany's extreme right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD) says that it expects to increase its vote in the federal election. That thought, however, is causing no alarm in other quarters.

The party, often accused of being neo-Nazi, has been trying to break into the Bonn Parliament since 1965. But except for a brief moment of near-glory in the 1960s, when it achieved 4.3 per cent of the vote, it has ended up with a nothing in front of its percentage since 1972.

At the last election, in March 1983, the NPD pulled 0.2 per cent, and non-party commentators do not expect it to do much better this time. It will merely be one of the 11 small parties out of the 16 fighting the election that will be lumped together in the results under "Others".

The also-rans achieved a total vote of only 0.5 per cent at the last poll, foundering, like most small parties that have made a bid for Bonn since 1949, by failing to gain the minimum 5 per cent of the vote needed to take seats in the Bundestag.

On the far left, the German Communist Party (DKP), which was last represented in Bonn in 1953 and scored only 0.2 per cent at the last two federal elections, is not competing this time. It has backed off to give the Peace List pacifists a better chance, but has also told its former supporters to give their vital second votes to the Social Democratic Party (SPD) or to the Greens.

Chancellor Kohl pounced upon the DKP's recommendation to accuse the SPD of being in pact with the communists and demanded that Herr Johannes Rau, his

SPD challenger, should distance himself from it. Herr Rau simply laughed at him.

Six of the small parties are entering the federal lists for the first time. The Marxist-Leninist Party, founded in 1982, is a "revolutionary party of the working class". Its result in the state election in North Rhine-Westphalia in 1985 was exactly 0.0 per cent.

The Patriots for Germany, formed last year, are a right-wing group best known for their election posters which scream "Stop Aids!" They scored 0.3 and 0.0 per cent in state elections in Lower Saxony and Hamburg last year.

The Women's Party dates from 1979, but has never done better than 0.1 per cent in the three state polls it has fought since 1982. The Adult Citizens Party has still to grow up after drawing 0.0 per cent in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The Liberal German Work-

ers Party, according to the Bonn Interior Ministry's latest report on internal security, is another neo-Nazi group. But its best result in four state elections since 1980 was 0.1 per cent after three zeros.

The Pensioners Party did better in the Bremen state election in 1983 with 1 per cent, but their hopes for improvements were dashed two years later when they drew 0.0 per cent in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Another new party which was expected to fight and do well poll is the right-wing Republicans, based in Bavaria. The party jolted Herr Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the Christian Social Union and Prime Minister of Bavaria, by gaining 3 per cent of the vote in the state election there last October.

However, they have decided to postpone their march on Bonn until the next poll.

The Liberal German Work-

Boycott in Dhaka is called off

Dhaka — Bangladesh's biggest opposition alliance decided to end an eight-month boycott and join the Parliament as it begins its winter session today, in a change of strategy by groups campaigning to remove the Government of President Ershad (Ahmed Fazl writes).

Sheikh Hasina Wazed, chief of the Awami League, said that she wanted to make the opposition felt inside Parliament, where an eight-party alliance controls 110 seats.

Bank choice

Tel Aviv (Reuters) — Mr Meir Heit, former head of the Tel Aviv stock exchange criticized over a 1983 shares collapse, has been named as new chairman of Bank Leumi, Israel's biggest commercial bank.

Slimline pair

Sydney (Reuters) — Mr Michael Murnane and his wife Sue, officially banned from adopting a Sri Lankan baby because they were too fat, have won a reprieve after a crash diet.

Prague mercy

Vienna (Reuters) — Three leaders of the Jazz Section, an independent group suppressed by the Czechoslovak authorities, have been freed from jail, according to Prague sources.

Fourth man

Rome (Reuters) — Italian police are searching for a fourth suspected member of the Red Brigades guerrilla group who escaped after a gun battle with police in a Rome street that led to the arrest of three others.

Aspin stays

Washington — Mr Les Aspin of Wisconsin has been re-elected chairman of the influential House armed services committee, reversing an earlier defeat and ending two weeks of campaigning by four Democrats.

Canberra man

Canberra (Reuters) — Australia has appointed the Senate president, Mr Douglas McClelland, as its next High Commissioner in Britain. He succeeds Mr Alf Parsons, returning home after two years.

Arabs jailed

Haifa (Reuters) — Four Israeli Arabs from the Haifa area were jailed for life for the 1982 rape and murder of a Jewish woman soldier in 1982, five days after Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Whale tale

Copenhagen (Reuters) — Greenpeace has apologized to Greenland, admitting that the consignment of whale meat it accused the country of exporting to Japan was in fact a stuffed whale for a travelling exhibition.

Peking shows how 'liberal' stumbled

From Robert Grieses, Peking

Excerpts from speeches by the dismissed vice-president of the National University of Science and Technology in Hefei are being circulated among officials at China's universities as examples of "bourgeois liberal" thinking which should be criticized.

Mr Fang Lizhi, the dismissed vice-president, is one of two Chinese intellectuals expelled from the Chinese Communist Party in its month-old campaign against Western influence. The other is Mr Wang Ruowang.

Mr Fang has been singled out because of allegations that speeches he gave helped to incite the wave of student demonstrations in 12 Chinese cities last month.

The campaign has also resulted in the dismissals of the university's president, the president and vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, Mr Hu Yaobang, a protégé of China's senior leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping.

Mr Fang is said to have been so outspoken partly because he felt protected by Mr Hu.

The 91 pages of extracts of his speeches date from an address delivered at Zhejiang University in March 1985 to one that Mr Fang, aged 50 and a prominent astrophysicist, delivered at his own university on December 4.

A preface to the collection of speeches states that some of them "have clearly departed from the four basic principles, advocated bourgeois liberalization and had a harmful

influence on young students. This collection of extracts is for leading cadres of leading departments and universities to examine when reviewing the ideological trend of bourgeois liberalization."

The four principles are democratic dictatorship of the people, leadership of the party, adherence to the socialist road and Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-tung thought.

Quotations from a speech in March 1985 reveal that Mr Fang has been outspokenly at odds with party ideologues.

"Universities should not be subject to various kinds of ideological restraint," he is quoted as saying. He also quoted intellectuals "the advanced component of the working class," a phrase which contradicts the current campaign's attacks on intellectuals.

In his speech at Jiatong University on November 17, 1986, which allegedly spurred students to demonstrate in favour of democracy and freedom, he reportedly said: "There is no clear understanding of what socialism really means... I believe that a spirit of independence means that universities, or at the very least the sphere of scientific research or academic research, should be independent of the Government and leaders."

Mr Fang's sources said yesterday that Mr Hu is expected to be made chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a body with no real power but which groups distinguished non-Communists and party members (Reuters reports).

Aftermath of Manila shooting

Military leaders admit troops 'over-reacted'

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Wing groups already condemning the "fascist" Aquino Government as little better than the 20-year dictatorship of Mr Ferdinand Marcos, the former president overthrown last February.

Left-wing leaders said that they held President Aquino responsible for the bloody riot, in which 100 demonstrators were injured, and threatened more protests.

Most of the dead suffered head wounds or were shot in the back as they scrambled for safety under a volley of automatic fire from 500 heavily armed marines.

A statement from armed forces headquarters blamed the bloodiest rioting since Mrs Aquino took power 11 months ago on a "lack of dialogue" between the leaders of the 10,000 protesting farmers and those of the marines.

"It was further observed that the peacekeeping force over-reacted to the situation," the statement said.

Troops remained on full nationwide alert yesterday amid fears of a backlash of "indignation" rallies from left-

wing groups already condemning the "fascist" Aquino Government as little better than the 20-year dictatorship of Mr Ferdinand Marcos, the former president overthrown last February.

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Japan's jobs for life face threat

From David Watts Takashima Island Nagasaki

"There are no words to express what I feel," said Mr Satoru Maeda, a miner who recently lost his job after 30 years on this tiny island off southern Japan.

"One company, one mine, one town. There is nothing else for us to do here."

The Maeda family, like dozens of others here, has been working down the mine for generations. But next week's closing ceremony at the mine will symbolize not only the dying of an island community but also the changes coming to Japan's economy — changes likely to lead to higher rates of unemployment in a country where lifetime employment is taken for granted.

The mine's death also marks the end of the last link with Britain's extraordinary contribution to Japan's early modernization. The Takashima mine was modernized and made viable by an Englishman, Mr Thomas Glover, 109 years ago. It laid the foundation of the great Mitsubishi trading and manufacturing house.

The most immediate reason for the mine's closure is the Maekawa report on the restructuring of Japanese industry handed last year to the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone. One of its few direct recommendations was a drastic cut in the production of Japanese coal and its substitution with imports.

Takashima's 50-minute ferry ride out into the Pacific from Nagasaki, had become inefficient, its undersea coal difficult to extract.

Last year, steel companies decided to set prices for Japanese coal at the same level as imports from Australia. With Takashima coal costing up to 28,000 yen (£113) a ton and imported coal 8,000 yen, the result was inevitable: not only the closure of Takashima but another blow to the lifetime employment system.

Mr Maeda, a rough-hewn, articulate man, had expected to stay part of the 20,000-strong Mitsubishi Takashima family for the rest of his working days. Even when the blow fell he thought he would join another company in the vast Mitsubishi empire.

Sipping hot sake in the leaky wooden house that has been home for 30 years, he is bitter about the coldness of the company.

During his trips to Tokyo as a trade unionist to try to save the firm, he soon found that the executives thought little of Mitsubishi's debt to the mine which founded its fortune. Used to an island less than three miles around without trains, his children are afraid of moving to the mainland city of Nagoya where he has the prospect of a new job.

The idea may be daunting, but he is one of only 32 of the 900 men who have so far been offered work. The traditional industries, coal, steel and shipbuilding — of which the southern island of Kyushu has more than its fair share — are all in steep decline; local job opportunities are rare.

Kyushu is also called "Silicon Island" because of the concentration of electronics-based industries, but the average age of the miners makes them unsuitable.

The generous separation terms afforded miners — a year's money from the company and two years on government unemployment benefit after that — are little comfort to families who have to leave their birthplace workless in a country where the saying: "If you don't work, don't eat" has lost little of its potency.

Non-Aligned nations to scrap words for action

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

January 24 - 30, 1987

SATURDAY

A weekly guide
to leisure, entertainment
and the arts

Sentenced: five figures of speech

PETER LEVI Writer

25
30

‘He expects much from his readers, and yet he is not a slave to boring rules’

SIR JOHN KINGMAN Professor

17
30

‘He starts with a mistake, leaving the reader anxious; then he assumes too much’

P.J. KAVANAGH Poet

15
30

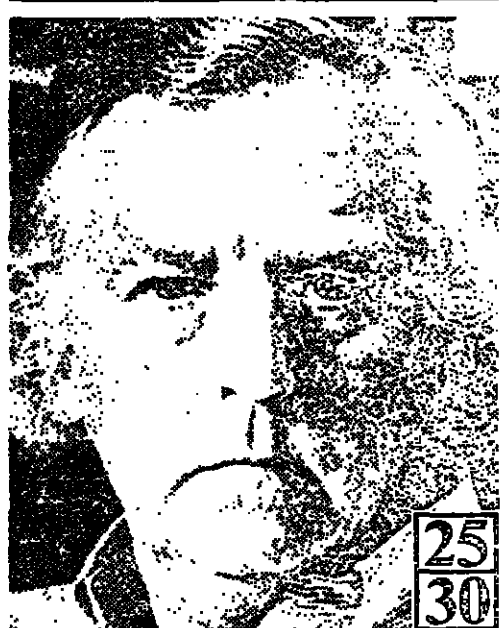
‘He probably makes his living writing, betraying himself in a turn of phrase’

ROBERT ROBINSON Broadcaster

23
30

‘Not intended for consumption by the C stream of the country’s comprehensives’

KEITH WATERHOUSE Journalist

25
30

‘The most amusing of the five and has the best flow of thought and shortest sentences’

Language,” wrote Dr Johnson, “is the dress of thought.” Since then, however, the Great Doctor’s mother tongue has been having a rough time. It has dressed everything from soap powder to grievous bodily harm and, in the process, the sheer flexibility of English has been strained to breaking point.

So, last week, Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, did what politicians do best: he set up a committee. His idea was to establish some “model of the English language, whether written or spoken,” to be used in the nation’s schools. Fifteen of the Great and the Good are to mull over the language of Chaucer and Wyatt and decide in what form it should be taught at Grange Hill Comprehensive.

C’s G’s, though, are an odd lot. Plucked from the obscurity of a government filing cabinet, they are expected to develop a spectacular expertise in anything from drains to aircraft carriers within months and then produce a definitive report. Drains are one thing; the lovely, infinitely complex, continually changing web of English is quite another. How do you qualify to pontificate upon the nature of a tool which, in one incarnation, can be used to buy baked beans and, in another, to address the lifeless body of Desdemona?

The answer is you do not — Shakespeare is dead and the language has been thinned and

standardized ever since. Nevertheless, we are still stuck with Baker’s one and a quarter dozen. So *The Times* decided to put them to the test: not a perfect test by any means, but a reasonably objective one. We picked five members of the committee and unearthed samples of their own prose. These we sent to Martin Cutts of the Plain English Campaign and he subjected them to the kind of scrutiny usually reserved for tax forms, company reports or, indeed, Aids leaflets.

Cutts was on his own. The samples were judged absolutely blind — in fact he could not even make an educated guess as he confessed he had missed the names of the committee. The results were spectacularly revealing. Simply cutting out the names and judging the pieces as anonymous snapshots of the present condition of the language highlighted their extraordinary variety and the way, even in the most routine piece of journalism, personalities emerged through the fabric of the prose.

Yet, varied as they were, Cutts immediately pointed out that they had one thing in common. They were all, he said, “writing for a *Times* and *Telegraph*-reading audience who want more than to be informed — they want to be interested, stimulated, pleased and to have their attention held and their intelligence flattered a little.” This means that some of the basic Plain

English Campaign criteria are not relevant — these pieces were intended to do more than tell their readers how to take tablets or fill in their tax forms.

Allowing for a degree of entertainment value rather than pure information transfer, then, Cutts proceeded to take them apart.

Sample A was an erudite little number on the subject of classical education in England composed, unknown to Cutts, by Peter Levi, Professor of Poetry at Oxford.

“He expects,” Cutts observed with a hint of weariness, “much from his readers.” Not only were there long words to cope with, there was also the assumption that everybody knew that Sicily was once full of Greeks rather than Italians. Fair enough, of course, for a certain audience, but a real problem did arise when Levi tried to join his introduction to his main argument.

One paragraph began: “Considering that this...,” but neither Cutts nor I could quite determine what “this” was, nor whether the words “same spirit” in the paragraph referred to the spirit of poetry or warfare.

Levi, though, won praise for not being a slave to boring “rules.” Cutts has no time for the argument that sentences should not begin with “but” nor that they should never end with a preposition. Levi used both. Cutts discovered only one actual grammatical slip: the use of “no” in a sentence without a preceding negative.

Writer B — in fact Sir John Kingman, chairman of the committee — had a tougher task in keeping Cutts entertained as the sample chosen was an article calling for the establishment of a Ministry of Science. It was not exactly an Ode on Intimations of Immortality, but revealing nonetheless.

Oddly, he starts with a mistake at the same critical point where Levi faltered — joining his preamble to his main argument. Cutts objected to his saying “This system has a number of serious weaknesses” and then going on to enumerate only two. This leaves the reader waiting anxiously for numbers three, four or five.

Then this later sentence assumes too much: “Only the Treasury takes an overall view, a fact whose implications do not need to be spelt out.” For almost everybody, argues Cutts, they do. Finally

A committee has been given the tricky task of judging standards of school English. How qualified, though, are these experts? Bryan Appleyard put some of their own work to the test



Kenneth Baker: benchmarks



Antonia Byatt: critical view

the Plain English Campaigner suffered a “deathly shudder” at the phrase “take little cognizance of” — surely the word “notice” would have been much better?

P.J. Kavanagh was writer C. His sample was a profile of the playwrighting Shaffer brothers, Peter and Anthony. Cutts detected at once that he was dealing with a professional writer — “He probably makes his living writing, betraying himself in a journalist’s and novelist’s turn of phrase.”

Kavanagh’s giveaway sentence came in his first paragraph: “Behind the eyes of both men there is a kind of startled stillness, the expression of someone who has received unexpectedly brilliant news and dares not move too violently in case he frightens it away.” This is about as far as you can get from the company information sheets that form the bread and butter of the Campaign’s work, but Cutts concluded that it was the best sentence in the piece.

The battle for good English

Britain’s word-torturers and clause-tanglers have cringed under the assaults of the Plain English Campaign since 1979. Its annual distribution of Golden Bull awards for the year’s prime examples of circumlocution, and Plain English awards for good deeds in the matter of clarity, have done more to amend the dialect of the tribe than any number of homilies in learned journals.

The campaign started as a private crusade against language as a cloak to meaning, mounted by two young media workers in Liverpool. Martin Cutts worked in a small printing press, Chrissie Maher as a researcher with the BBC, and the campaign was launched from Chrissie’s front room with such flair for publicity that it soon became the acknowledged champion of

anybody who has ever had to puzzle over an official form. They began with a ceremonial shredding of documents in Parliament Square, and carried on from hand to mouth for a couple of years, sometimes falling back on the dole, without any inkling that their enterprise could ever become a self-supporting one.

They have never received any grants for their principal work from their generic victims, the nation’s public bureaucrats.

“You see how naive we were at first,” says Martin Cutts. “We found that organizations began to come back to us and say: ‘If you say we’re doing so badly, show us how to do it better.’ In the early days we did help them as a completely free service, and then we realized we should be sending them bills. Now the campaign

is just about a paying proposition — you could say it is a rage to better rags story.” Today the campaign has a staff of 10 and an office in Whaley Bridge, near Stockport.

It advises government departments, councils and companies on graphic design and how to lay out a publication so that it can be easily understood, as well as on verbal clarity. They handle 500 or more jobs a year, most of them quite small, but some involving documents of many thousands of words. The campaign also provides courses to wean officials and lawyers away from “whereas,” and “give devise and bequeath.”

At the moment they have not developed courses designed for use in the schools whose standards cause the

Cutts coolly attacked this 93-word monster as incomprehensible.

“Perhaps it was the ornate, not to say rococo, location of the audience on that occasion that made me feel the real play was taking place offstage: the play that was disrupted did not disrupt the real play, of which the one you auditioned for was simply an ingredient — and on the night in question a pretty minor ingredient at that, with my green scales swathed in a handy raincoat, a bottle of South African sherry at my lips, and viewing the various *tableaux vivants* which had developed, I was able to judge.”

Keith Waterhouse was concealed behind the pseudonym E. His piece was about the number of unwritten letters to *The Times*. It was, said Cutts, “the most amusing of the five and has the best flow of thought.” Much to the delight of the old campaigner, Waterhouse came out with the shortest sentence of any of the samples — “So do I” — as well as the second shortest — “Do not be alarmed.” Alas, Sir Ernest Gowers, guru of the Plain English people on the basis of his masterwork *Complete Plain Words* (HMSO, £5.95), would not have smiled benignly upon the use made by the creator of Billy Liar of the word “case.”

In one sentence he writes: “In my own case, because most of my novels are effectively in the first person, even when written in the third, in that everything is seen through the eyes of the hero. And in a second sentence he writes: “the embossed notepaper of the Old Rectory, in their case, will remain forever virgin of that declaratory ‘Sir!’”

In both cases (sorry) the words are unnecessary. Cutts and his guru prefer the word to be used to refer to the thing you pluck off the luggage carousels at airports. This, he felt, was an error very similar to one of Levi’s — using two unnecessary sentence openings: “It will be seen that... be remembered...” He found them bureaucratic; I found

them redolent of scholarly pseudo-modesty. Cutts’ conclusion was: “Overall they all write well” (your reporter takes exception to the tautology of overall-all as well as its nasty sound) “but very Oxbridge and very scholarly. We expect nearly all did Latin at school — perhaps Mr Baker will recommend a Latin revival for the better understanding of English grammar.”

As for whom he would most like to read, B (Kingman) could not have held his attention and D (Robinson) was very boring and very scholarly. A (Levi) was good for the subject matter and E (Waterhouse) was the most fun. For pleasure, Cutts himself reads P.G. Wodehouse; he also likes the writing of the political commentator

Hugo Young and, hair-raisingly, the American *On the Road* writer Jack Kerouac — not exactly a mainstream defender of the Eng Lit faith. He adds, with shocking candour, that he gave up on English literature about 10 years ago.

As for the committee, they should perhaps mull over some other words of Dr Johnson (who would surely have been a Waterhouse lover) in the introduction to his dictionary: “I am not yet so lost in lexicography, as to forget that words are the daughters of earth, and that things are the sons of heaven.”

Author’s note: The above was not compiled under the Plain English Campaign’s writing restrictions.

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	Peter Levi	Sir John Kingman	P.J. Kavanagh	Robert Robinson	Keith Waterhouse
For clarity of language for the intended audience	9	9	9	7	9
For organisation and flow	7	5	4	8	9
For giving pleasure in the use of language	9	3	2	8	7
TOTAL 30	25	17	15	23	25

SATURDAY

Whisky galore: heart-warming winter tipples for a Burns Night to remember, p11

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Drink	11	Television	14
Eating Out	11	Times Cook	11
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How would you prefer to meet someone special?

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TRAVEL 1

Tranquil Dutch treat

Amsterdam's enduring charm is reflected in the surface of her 160 canals. Stewart Tendler took a weekend break by ferry and car to savour the peace

Each night the guardians of Amsterdam open the lock gates, releasing the waters of the central canals and gently filtering the louche old lady's ageing furred arteries. The green-grey waters of the 160 canals are cleansed beneath tree-lined streets and the magnificently gabled homes, inherited from the days of Holland's trading empire.

In the Rembrandtsplein, late drinkers sit behind the glass screens of the cafes and trams rumble home, clanging peevishly at unwary jaywalkers.

The cleansing of the canals is a process as timeless as the city itself. Nearly 7,000 buildings, dating from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, survive intact. Traffic is negligible at night and the walker finds a serenity difficult to imagine in a city of 700,000 souls.

Perhaps the water deadens the noise or imposes its own tranquillity. At night, lights burn beneath the bridges reflecting on silent surfaces. It is easy to imagine being temporarily transported two centuries or more into Amsterdam's past. To step aside for a bewigged merchant arriving at the stairs to his home on the Herengracht, or for a servant scurrying to his kitchen through the doors below, would come as no great surprise.

Both would find some things unchanged by the passage of time. Even today many of the city's treasures and its attractions lie within or close to the three rings of canals which give Amsterdam its peculiar charm. The city's publicity machine boasts a tourist menu which ranges from the 6,100 animals in the Artis Zoo to 24 diamond-polishing factories, 206 paintings by Van Gogh, 70 glass-topped canal boats and an extraordinary flower market.

Numerous short city break packages to Amsterdam can be found. But Car Holidays Abroad, operated by Canvas Holidays - the Hertfordshire specialist in motoring tours - has added a new twist, offering motorists a short break to the city by Sealink from Harwich via the Hook of Holland.

However, since Amsterdam so heavily favours pedestrians and cyclists, such a scheme has limited attractions. It takes nearly seven hours to make the crossing and then more than an hour to drive into Amsterdam on a motorway system which can be very confusing. Once in the city, parking is expensive and driving difficult in the centre.

Taking a car works best for those who already know Amsterdam and want to use it as a base to explore Holland or for day trips further into the Low Countries and Germany.

Once the road system is mastered, motorists can reach out to the wide sandy expanse of beaches along the North Sea - just an hour from Amsterdam.

Or you can delve deep into the Dutch countryside. Alkmaar offers its cheese market and Delft its pottery, and to the north lie the great reclamation schemes of the IJsselmeer. At the end of the day Amsterdam awaits with fine food and abundant night life. To get the best from such a deal it makes sense to extend the three nights offered in the package by making the two crossings as night trips with berths.

Overall, the Car Holidays scheme left much to be desired. The three-star hotel had no parking, which meant finding somewhere on the street or



Transports of delight: boats on the canals and bikes on the narrow streets leave cars behind

paying a small fortune in a car park.

The hotel was undergoing a facelift and getting to your room meant going up in one lift and then down in another to bypass the workmen. Stay too long in the wrong lift and you ended up in the basement kitchens. The booking was supposed to include breakfast but the hotel knew nothing of this, informing us that breakfast could cost £8 per head. For three of us for three days it would have cost more than £80. Telephone calls to Britain cleared up the matter, but the unseemly haggling spoilt the holiday.

The final blow was to discover on the way home that the cabin we had booked was for two people when we were travelling with a child old and big enough to sleep in a separate bed. It was a cramped night. Clearly Car Holidays need to do a bit more research on the value of city/car packages and their own arrangements.

The Car Holidays Abroad package, including three nights in a hotel for two people plus the crossing, costs from £313 to £352. Contact them on 0992 59933.

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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 2

OUTINGS

TRAVEL NEWS

Snow-go penalties

Snowbound holidaymakers who abandoned plans to take a package trip abroad during the recent cold spell because they were unable to reach the airport will be receiving heavy bills for cancellation charges.

Tour operators are enforcing the normal penalties, typically 60 per cent of the holiday cost if it is cancelled during the last day or two before departure, or the full cost if cancelled on the day the holiday is due to start.

Some holiday insurance schemes specifically exclude bad weather as a valid reason for claiming back cancellation charges, although Thomson's policy with Home and Overseas says if the cancellation is "genuinely" beyond the traveller's control.

Thomson Holidays said very few of its customers had cancelled because of the weather. "Most people have been so desperate to escape to the sun that they have made prodigious efforts to get to the airport," said a spokesman. But there have been some claims under the Thomson insurance, which pays up to £300 for extra expenses incurred when passengers miss their flights because of transport delays.

Late savers

Last-minute discounts on long-haul holidays are being offered by British Airways Poundstretcher subsidiary under a new "Late Rates" scheme. The price of a typical seven-night beach holiday in Kenya during February is cut by £100 to £619, while the cost of a stay in Hong Kong on a room-only basis drops from £635 to £485. Information: 0293 518060.

Culture vultures

A new series of cultural-interest short breaks, most accompanied by an expert guest lecturer, is being offered by Swan Hellenic this year, with prices starting at £335 for a five-day art treasures tour to Berlin. There will also be a seven-day tour priced at £988 which includes visits to three performances during the Verona Festival of Opera. Information: 01-831 1616.

Philip Ray

In search of the Caesars

Inspired by thoughts of temples and Tiberius,

John Crossland flew to Italy to see where

Imperial Rome took its leisure — and pleasure

Everything was moving on as we headed south directly on the Appian Way, a fine straight road that Augustus would have used to escape the unhealthy and overcrowded shanty town of Rome.

Circe's Isle, a brooding mountain shaped like a woman's head in repose, dominates the long beach of Salernitana. This is now a national park where the wild boar — according to legend, the descendants of Ulysses' hapless men — still forage the slopes while modern hedonists sail from the large marina and dine up on the Faro.

A few miles past Circe a yellow sign points down to an orchard and the Grotto of Tiberius. The grotto, covered for centuries by sand thrown up by a tidal wave, lies on one of the many beautiful coves on this indented coast. Peaceful family bathing is a far cry, though, from Tiberius' summer diversions.

The grotto, site of the Emperor's near-fatal orgy, encircles a large rock pool and is decorated with Hellenistic statues on the grand scale. Imagine the scene on the night of the earthquake — musicians playing on the crude stage, the lamp-lights flickering on the naked bodies cavorting around the sprawling statue of the blinded Cyclops (now reconstructed in the nearby museum) — then the tremors, sending the drunken courtiers rushing for the low rock apertures of the exit. A stalactite fell from the roof just where Tiberius was lounging. Seneca threw himself across the Emperor's body, saving his life and taking the first step on the road to power.

We had planned to drive on to Naples after visiting the near-complete Roman theatre at Minerva but our ailing hire car collapsed under us and, since it was Sunday, everyone was at the tra-

toria. As there was no hope of repair we decided to join them. After a Lucullan feast of antipasto di mare and grilled fish, we were driven off by the waiter to catch the *rapido* and entered Naples by train with the families returning from their winter migration in the industrial north.

If you can relax amid the deafening cacophony of blaring horns there is much to enjoy in this city, a Bourbon layer-cake with over-sugared slices of *palazzo* stacked up the escarpment towards the belvedere of Capodimonte.

Naples has, of course, its legendary waterfront — a huge operatic set, with Vesuvius lowering across the bay, and Castello dell'Ovo guarding the remains of the old harbour of Santa Lucia. Now a yacht haven, it is also the place to dine on seafood and to experience Neapolitan song.

The cool halls of the National Archaeological Museum nearby are a fitting setting for the elegant Pompeian frescoes showing the gods at play on an eternally summery Olympus. Primed with these glorious fragments of Pompeii as it was,



Patterns of Pompeii: atrium of a gracious villa where once Romans gathered away from the overcrowded city

we set out next day for the site, taking the Circumvesuviana railway connecting Naples with Sorrento.

Vesuvius has preserved this time capsule of Roman life in bizarre detail: the corner wine shop, with amphorae still intact, awaiting the evening's custom. At a house off the Stabian Way the family guard dog is frozen in mosaic in mid-leap — his mistress's remains were found indoors clutching the jewellery they had tried to salvage. The plaster cast of the body of a slave is mute testament to the nemesis of this ancient society — he claws desperately at the air, which is being fatally fouled. The overgrown village of Herculaneum, a train ride away, is very different. No sign here of the temples, markets and spacious villas painted by metropolitan artists which betoken Pompeii's envious bustling society. Land-scaped into a park, Herculaneum is now a suburb of Naples and it is an odd sensation to walk 40 feet down through a cut in the solidified mud and, looking up from the atrium of a Roman house, see a line of washing

above the excavation's lip. Everything here is on an intimate scale. We walked the narrow streets, peering into houses still complete to the second storey.

The next stop was Pozzuoli, which saw quite a lot of drama for a holiday resort. Caligula chose it as the setting for his drive over water or, more accurately, across the decks of the Roman fleet, spanning the four miles of the bay; Tiberius was smothered here in his bed-chamber, and Agrippina took an enforced midnight swim hereabouts, after her son Nero arranged a boating accident.

What is left of Nero's villa can be seen in the bay's depths, where they were deposited by an earthquake similar to that which depopulated old Pozzuoli a few years ago. The Vesuvian faultline is still pushing up the ground hereabouts.

For reassurance we drove the three miles up the partly Roman-paved Autostrada Sirella to consult the sibyl.

We had expected another grotto but found a haunted cavern, a site as numinous in its way as Stonehenge — and still attracting supplicants after two millennia. Emerging from the long rock-hewn passageway into the blinding sunlight of the mossy grotto where the sibyl prophesied, we saw the flash of white dresses among the trees — newly-weds posing for their photographs after asking good auspices from the prophetess.

By this time the din of Naples was having the same effect on us as ancient Rome had on the Caesars, and we fell for the siren song of Capri, exchanging the smog pall on the mainland for the island's balmy breezes and clear sapphire water. This is a walker's island; it is criss-crossed with quiet winding paths, bordered in flowers and odoriferous bushes, which take you to the lips of dizzy cliffs.

We ended our visit to the Caesars' coast on the Sorrento peninsula, at a hotel founded in 1820 which occupies the site of an imperial pleasure villa built by Postumus Agrippa, adopted son of Augustus. Here, where more modern monarchs like Edward VII have holidayed, we sat on the terrace of a replica Pompeian villa and looked across at the lights of Naples in the distance, under the shadow of Vesuvius.

TRAVEL NOTES

We flew to Rome with Alitalia, which operates two daily services from Heathrow. Apex fare is £147 return; Business Class, £426 return (reservations, 01-602 7111). If your aim is to fly/drive Alitalia's Jet-Drive offers a hire car at an inclusive price (excluding petrol) of £137 a week. For further inquiries contact Italian State Tourist Office, 1 Princes Street, London W1 (01-408 1254).

HOLIDAYS EXHIBITION:

120 holiday companies, airlines, UK resorts, tour operators, national tourist offices plus stage entertainment — dancing displays and "Optimistic" laser-light dancing for children — and guest celebrities from *EastEnders* (today, Tom Waits).

Alexandra Palace, London N22 (01-263 8477). Today, tomorrow, 10.30am-7pm. Adult £2, child £1.

RHS FLOWER SHOW:

Competition for winter-flowering trees and shrubs with displays of the same, orchids, African violets, alpine plants, evergreens, botanical paintings and gardening equipment. RHS Halls, Vincent Square, London SW1 (01-834 4333). Tues, 11am-7pm, Wed 10am-5pm. Admission Tues £2, Wed £1.

JCRV VIKING FESTIVAL:

A month of festivities to celebrate the success of the Jorvik Viking Centre, opened in April 1984 and visited by almost 900,000 people each year. Tonight there's a Grand Firework Display at Cliffords Tower, York, North Yorkshire. Firework display tonight, 7.30pm. Viking Cocktail Competition, Assembly Rooms, noon-10pm. Both events free.

CHARLES I COMMEMORATION:

Annual event at which the King's Army (the Royalist Wing of the English Civil War Society) dons authentic 17th-century costume and armour and marches from St James's Palace through Horse Guards and the Mall to Banqueting House for a brief wreath-laying service, followed by presentation of awards and commissioning of officers. Parade returns via Trafalgar Square and Admiralty Arch to St James's Palace. London, tomorrow, March begins 11am. Free.

IMAGE OF THE TRAIN:

First showing in the south of England of the exhibition assembled by the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television. It includes the work of many distinguished 20th-century photographers who have been fascinated by trains, travellers, tracks and stations — among them Norman Parkinson, Henri Cartier-Bresson, André Kertész and David Hockney. Science Museum, South Kensington, London SW7, (01-589 3456). Wed-May 3, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm. Closed Good Friday, May Day Monday. Free.

Judy Freshaug

01-602 1550

HOLIDAYS & VILLAS

Continued from page 10

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THE TIMES COOK

One potato, two potato

Shona Crawford Poole gets to work on the not-so-humble spud

Dana Leach

In winter, any supermarket in France or Switzerland seems to supply those small, waxy potatoes that are so good for gratins and salads. Inside they are a pale, buttery yellow. Their flavour is rich and earthy.

Potatoes that will not fall apart when boiled are the essential ingredient for this chunky potato pie from Normandy. With its rich crust, trilled top and creamy filling, it is a country dish to serve with plainly roasted or grilled meats.

Potato pie
Serves eight
200g (7oz) plain flour
Salt
100g (3½oz) butter, diced
1 egg plus 1 yolk
For the filling
1.25kg (2½lb) small potatoes, peeled
100g (3½oz) butter, melted
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
150g (½ pint) crème fraîche or soured cream

To make the pastry, combine the flour and salt and rub in the diced butter until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the egg yolk and mix to a dough, adding a little water if necessary. Form the pastry into a ball, cover and chill it for 2 hours.

Peel and thinly slice the potatoes. Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil. Drop in the potato slices. Bring the water back to boil as fast as possible and boil the potatoes for four to five minutes. They should be cooked but not breaking up. Drain them well.

Roll out the pastry thinly and use it to line a circular loose-bottomed tin of about 20cm (8in) diameter. A spring-clip cake tin is ideal. Line the pastry with greaseproof paper and



weight it for blind-baking with dry beans. Bake the case in a pre-heated, moderately hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 6) for 10 minutes. Remove the paper and beans. Fill with layers of potato slices, sprinkling each layer with melted butter and a liberal seasoning of salt and pepper. The potatoes should fill the case generously.

Re-roll the remaining pastry and cut it in narrow strips. Arrange them in a lattice design on top of the pie and glaze it with the whole egg beaten. Continue baking the pie in a moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for about 35 minutes. Then pour the cream into the pie through the holes in the lattice, and return it to the oven for a final 10 minutes.

Unmould it while it is still hot and serve at once. Potato pie is particularly good with strong flavours like roast, smoked loin of pork.

One of the best of the many versions of sliced potatoes cooked in milk, cream and cheese that abound in French cooking is also, alas, the richest. For the ultimate

potato treat, make this Roux brothers rendering of gratin savoyard taken from their book *New Classic Cuisine*, published by Macdonald.

Savoyard potatoes
Serves four
650g (1½lb) medium potatoes
¼ clove garlic
500ml (18fl oz) double cream
4 tablespoons milk
Freshly grated nutmeg
Salt
Freshly ground white pepper

Peel the potatoes carefully, wash them and slice them on a mandoline; the slices should be only about 3mm (1/10th inch) thick. Spread them on a table and sprinkle lavishly with salt. Rub the slices together, then heap them in a pile and leave for five to 10 minutes. The salt will extract the water and soften the potatoes.

Combine the cream and milk in a saucepan large enough to contain the potatoes later. Salt very lightly (remember that the potatoes are already salted). Add two turns of the pepper mill and grate in a little nutmeg. Set over a high heat and bring to the boil for several minutes. Rub a medium gratin dish, preferably made of fine metal, with the half clove of garlic dipped in salt.

Press the potatoes lightly in your hands to squeeze out the excess water. Add the potatoes to the boiling cream and bring the mixture back to the boil. Remove from the heat and, using a large spoon, spread the mixture evenly in the prepared dish. The gratin should be 5-6cm (about 2in) thick.

Bake it in a pre-heated cool oven (120°C/250°F, gas mark ½) for about 45 minutes.

This dish reheats well if baked in an equally slow oven.

DRINK

High in the Highlands

Jane MacQuitty suggests fitting ways to celebrate Burns Night tomorrow

A small single glass of a rare single malt is perhaps the whisky connoisseur's preferred Burns Night tipple but, given the recent sub-zero temperatures, I shall be toasting Robbie Burns with a hot whisky toddy.

A Scottish friend introduced me to the perfect hot toddy recipe a decade ago and, since then, this comforting drink has cheered up many an arctic winter evening. It also happens to be the best cold cure I know. So forget about those namby-pamby pharmaceutical preparations and, for a blissful cold-free uninterrupted night's sleep, take the following with two aspirin just before getting into bed.

Whisky Toddy
2 generous measures whisky
Juice of half a lemon
2 teaspoons honey to taste

Place all the ingredients in a heatproof glass or mug, top up with boiling water and stir gently until the honey has dissolved. Standing a spoon in the glass will prevent non-heat-proof glasses from cracking.

If this sounds rather too tame a dram to down after eating the "Great Chieftain of the pudding-race", using roughly the same ingredients try creating a Blue Blazer, an amazing fiery concoction that is listed in the original 1930 edition of *The Savoy Cocktail Book*.

Blue Blazer
2 measures whisky
2 teaspoons honey
Twist of lemon peel
2 measures boiling water

Warm the whisky, pour it into a flame-proof tankard or mug and carefully set light to the contents. When the flames die down, top up with boiling water, add the twist of lemon peel and stir in the honey until it has dissolved. It may not do your cold any good but it will provide you with a Burns Night to remember.

If honey and lemon are traditional partners to whisky then so is Drambuie, that sticky Scottish liqueur made from honey, whisky (including malt whisky) and herbs. The makers still support the legend that the original recipe for this popular liqueur came from Bonnie Prince Charlie as a gift to the Mackinnon family, his protectors on the Isle of Skye after the bloody battle of Culloden Moor in 1746. Even sceptics will love the following classic Scottish drink.

Rusty Nail
1 measure whisky
1 measure Drambuie
Twist of lemon peel
Ice cubes

Put ice in a small glass, add the remaining ingredients and stir. If it's freezing cold both inside and out forget about the

ice cubes. Drier palates may prefer to step up the whisky proportion to two measures whisky to one measure Drambuie.

The Scottish version of a Manhattan called, appropriately enough, a Rob Roy, will also go down well.

Rob Roy
2 measures whisky
1 measure red vermouth (either French or Italian)
1 dash Angostura bitters
Ice cubes

Put all the ingredients into a mixing glass, stir well and strain into a cocktail glass. For those who like that sort of thing the glass can be decorated with a maraschino



cherry. Once again, if it's bitterly cold forget the ice cube.

Irish coffee has helped keep me warm and awake at the end of many a cold day's skiing. And although Irish traditionalists (of which I am not one) swear that only Irish whiskey is capable of making the exact magical combination with fresh coffee, I have often used Scottish and no one has complained. The vital point is not to let the cream melt into the coffee. If it does, a dreamy blended morning brew will simply be the result.

Burns Night Coffee
1 measure whisky
1 teaspoon brown sugar
Double cream

Extra strong, extra hot, fresh black coffee
Place the sugar and whisky in the bottom of a tall heat-proof glass. Add the hot, freshly ground coffee (not instant!) leaving sufficient room for the cream. Stir until the sugar has dissolved. When the coffee is still and has cooled slightly, gently pour the double cream over the back of a teaspoon on to the surface of the coffee.

For all these recipes a good blended Scotch whisky rather than a single malt will be perfectly adequate. The super-markets are now a useful inexpensive source of these whiskies: Asda's blended Scotch whisky is still a good buy at £6.65, and even better is the Co-op's low strength Arden House (£5.99), plus their wondrous Heathcote (£6.35) and Majority (£6.69) blends. *Sainte nra!*

EATING OUT

Gathering winter fuel in comfort

Countries that are habitually on the receiving end of the climatic boogymen that we have experienced lately are not only better prepared to cope with frozen roads and drifts as high as houses, they have also evolved a repertoire of dishes that are effective fuel in such conditions.

Such dishes — hefty stews and braises and the like — tend to make up in soothing blandness and comforting unctuousness what they lack in finesse. They are best made at home where they can mature on the stove, but if home is where all the water is frozen apart from that which is seeping through the ceiling, maybe you will want to get out. The thing to seek is the sort of cooking that does its warming job without setting in the pit of the stomach like cement, rendering you immobile.

The Czech Club, a few doors away from the Acol bridge club, which gave its name to a bidding system, opened in the 1920s and has been a home from home for successive generations of emigrés. Once

inside, you leave England far behind.

In the back room, where there is a tablet commemorating London Czechs who fell in the Great War, four young men are drinking beer and singing and ribbing each other and making enough noise for 40. On a notice board is a letter from the White House in which the Great Communicator thanks the members of the club for their contribution to this fund or that. In the restaurant, a portrait of Churchill scratches the door. This is an extraordinary room, where expense has been manifestly spared on the furniture. But it is quite delightful and thoroughly unpretentious: the night I was there, the service was carried out by an effortlessly cheerful beauty who might have stepped, it was suggested, from one of Milos Forman's early films.

The best of the dishes was boiled beef in a thick, though fairly light, sauce of dill and cream; the portion served on the far side of generosity. Both this and roast duck are served



with bread dumplings made with cubes of different sorts of bread formed into a cylinder and boiled. It is served in thick, circular slices and the Czech Club's version is not in the least laden. Nor is the sweet dough dumpling with apricot and melted butter that is served as dessert — this was one of the best hot puddings I've tasted for ages.

Other things worth trying are braised with raw onion, and slices of fried bread spread

with strong liver pâté and garlic. The only question mark was against the sweet, mushy sauce that accompanied the duck. We drank Budweiser — the Czech not the American brew — and one apricot brandy and paid the grand sum of £26.

Ziani could hardly be more different. It looks like any one of a dozen or more off-the-peg Italian places in Chelsea — one that pretends to be tiles, abstractionist aberrations and scenes of Venice on the walls,

tables so close you can smell your neighbour's breath, cocky waiters with higher degrees in body language. But where Ziani differs from the common run is in the friendly efficiency of the cocky waiters and in its successful offering of a number of dishes common enough in Northern Italy but too rarely found here.

Bollito misto is the great cold weather standby of Piedmont, where it originated, and of Lombardy and the Veneto. It comprises tongue, boiled beef and veal, steamed capon, celery, carrot, the sausage called cotichino, firm potatoes; the sauce is a turbot-charged vinaigrette with capers, parsley, garlic. The dish was well executed, and there was lots of it.

More commonly encountered dishes are prepared with uncommon care and fine supplies — steaks are of properly hung meat and char-grilled; the prosciutto does not taste of salty soap. The brief wine list is, for the most part, needlessly modest, for there is currently available in this

country an astonishing selection of Italian wines at decent prices. The most interesting here are the 1979 Cesari Amarone from Valpolicella and the 1981 Castello di Nipozzano, a chianti from outside Chianti, which is certainly odder and maybe better than many of those within the denomination.

The fact that the place was packed on one of the coldest nights of this cold year testifies to its worth. It also means that you are liable to be asked to move tables in order that the house can accommodate yet another party of pla-striped loudmouths. Two are unlikely to pay less than £40 and, given the range of obscure aperitifs and digestifs, may well pay more.

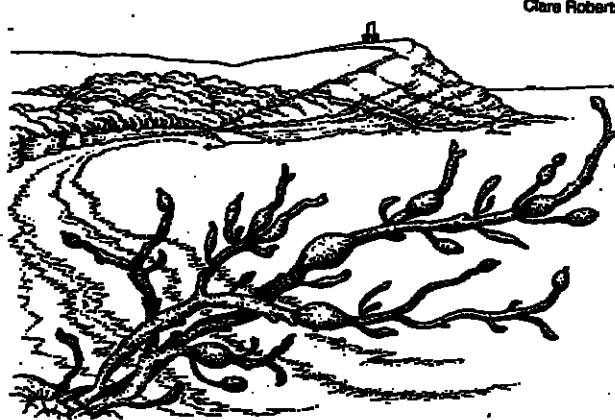
Jonathan Meades

Czech Club, 74 West End Lane W1G (open Tues to Fri, 6pm-9.30pm, and Sat and Sun, noon-3pm and 6pm-9.30pm). Ziani, 45 Radnor Walk SW3 (01-351 5297 and 01-352 2698, open every day noon-2.45pm and 7pm-11.30pm).

IN THE GARDEN

Clare Roberts

Fertile fruits of a war failure



For the first time there is a company with enough money, muscle and commitment to put a decent range of organic products, not merely into a few specialist outlets, but into popular stores and garden centre chains.

An unproclaimed but horticulturally significant merger has just brought together Maxicrop, famous for its horticultural seaweed extract, and the Stimgro Company, producers of organic compost, under the umbrella of a giant Swedish firm which, by its own account, takes an interest in ecology and conservation. A family business, Maxicrop is already the biggest exporter of seaweed extract. Although the benefits of seaweed have been known for 2,000 years, its use is still fairly limited, partly because of the sheer bulk of natural seaweed.

The Maxicrop initiative was almost an accident, owing its origins to a research project set up during the Second World War to make camouflage netting from seaweed. It failed in its main purpose, but the chief scientist (who was

also a gardener) discovered that the precipitate obtained from the seaweed proved an exceptional tonic for his plants. Most importantly, nearly all the goodness of seaweed could be refined into this strong liquid concentrate.

In the early 1950s a small Maxicrop company was set up and did moderately well until 1978, when it went into receivership. Paul Ridgeon, son of the original director, bought the company, believ-

ing its fortunes could be reversed with better manufacturing, marketing and research.

Under his direction, the harvesting of seaweed, principally the species *Asophyllum nodosum*, is now carried out by a machine rather than by hand, which, as I can vouch, is a long and arduous business. It is a cool-water, inter-tidal seaweed which grows best in sheltered rocky bays and is a genuinely

renewable resource. The fronds are cut one foot from the holdfast, which anchors the seaweed to the rocks, and grow again within a few years.

Scientific interest in the effect of seaweed on plant life and on soil structure has developed over the past decade. Maxicrop itself has financed research fellowships. It has been established that seedlings sprayed with dilute seaweed extract grow more strongly and have better root development. Not only do seaweeds contain trace elements but also a group of plant hormones known as cytokinins, which enable plants to take nutrients from the soil more rapidly, and

WEEKEND TIPS

● Even if there is a thaw in your area, indoor bulbs which have finished flowering should not be put outside straight away — give them a halfway house in a cold frame or cool greenhouse.

● Check your stored apples to make sure they are not freezing. If they are, do not let them thaw completely but cut and cook them as soon as you can get a knife through, after which they can be stored in the freezer.

efficiently. Seaweed-treated plants also have considerable resistance to pests and diseases, although the reason for this has not yet been completely explained.

During the past few years, I have used dried seaweed on the worst clays in my garden and while I would not claim to have been scientific, there is no doubt that these beds are easily worked and fertile. Experimental work shows that the alginates (which make living seaweed slippery) bind soil particles together to give a stable, crumb-like structure, and this happens effectively in sands as well as clays.

Francesca Greenoak

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THE ARTS

Murder most finely drawn

Indelible Evidence (BBC2) got off to a shaky start last week, largely because the true-life case which it lightly fictionalized was still fresh in the viewer's mind. Last night's reconstruction of a 1981 double murder was altogether more gripping.

Peter Hugo Daly's eerily convincing performance as a shambling psychotic, who made himself an orphan with the help of two backwash, inspiring the Hampshire Constabulary to equal heights of authenticity. "When did you last see your father?" has never been uttered with a straighter face.

Topping and tailing the drama, Ludovic Kennedy bids fair to become the Edgar Lustgarten of the age of

TELEVISION

forensic omniscience and if this series dissuades research-happy crime writers from committing the perfect murder on their own account it will have served its purpose.

One half of *Arena* (also BBC2) followed the 71-year-old thriller writer Celia Fremlin on her surreal wanderings through London, the potential danger of which she finds "tremendously invigorating". Solitude is the one condition that the television documentary cannot adequately convey, and it was left to the subject's voice-over to provide the human interest - notably in her story of encountering a fantastically obese woman who for years had taken her exercise only at night, and who was incensed at having been seen by another human being.

The other half of the programme celebrated the daily round of Jeffrey Bernard, the romantic realist and part-time tourist attraction whose *Low Life* column in the *Spectator* is unique in English journalism. While Miss Fremlin was preparing for sleep, Bernard was injecting himself with insulin and lubricating his typewriter with the first vodka of the morning.

These days, the erstwhile Colonel Mad of *Private Eye* has his main drink of the day at lunchtime, maintaining vertical hold in his corner of The Coach and Horses, and retiring gracefully in the early evening, when his beloved Soho falls prey to those he despises.

This was all rather poignant, and it needed the archive footage of Muriel Belcher presiding over The Colony Room to give an indication of what - still, and against the odds - makes Bernard tick.

Martin Cropper

● This summer's Glyndebourne Festival opens on Sunday, May 24, with a new production by Sir Peter Hall of *La traviata*, with Marie McLaughlin in the title role. This is the first time Verdi's opera has been heard at the Sussex theatre. *Traviata* will be designed by John Gunter and conducted by Bernard Haitink.

The season's other new production comprises a Ravel double bill of *L'Heure espagnole* and *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*, conducted by Simon Rattle and directed by Frank Corsaro. The first night is July 22.



Christopher Leach: 'Teaching half-filled minds for too long is very bad'

Christopher Leach, whose latest novel was published this week, talks to Caroline Moorehead

Faith of a faithless man

Some time this afternoon, as he does every Saturday afternoon, Christopher Leach will go into Knutsford, south of Manchester, to collect the papers. Besides three dailies and the complete range of Sunday papers, he reads *The Spectator*, *The Times Educational Supplement*, *The Times Literary Supplement* and *The Listener* - papers, as he puts it, being his one vice.

Neither he nor his wife drive, so the two-mile journey from their stone farmhouse to the centre of town will be done by taxi. The only other time Leach stirs from home is on a Monday, the day he regularly lunches with a friend, from noon till three.

There has been nothing untoward about this past week, either, despite the publication on Thursday of his 12th novel, *God, Spartacus and Miss Emily*. A tall, (6ft 4in), big sandy, man, with pale blue eyes surprisingly sharp in the soft face, he has a distinctly watchful manner. He talks about himself with precision, rather as though he was describing someone else.

Until two and a half years ago, Christopher Leach was an arts teacher at a nearby private school. He had been teaching boys to paint ever since he was demobbed from the Army in 1945, but strictly as a way of earning a living. "Teaching half-filled minds for too long," he says, "is very bad: it leads to trivialities and a terrible schoolmasterly manner."

His talent as a painter had been spotted by a civil servant in the

Ministry of Education who, trawling the Services for possible post-war teachers, had come across him serving with the Royal Engineers in Cairo, and invited him to come home, to teach at a training college, then art school.

That offer marked his life. He hated the army - "all that stuff about the suppression of the individual" - as much as he had hated school during his childhood in the East End of London. Until his marriage at the age of 35 he lived on his own, in the bedsitter land of Earl's Court, moving every two years from school to school, dreaming of the colours of faraway places - "can you imagine, for an East Ender, what those colours had meant" - and when he failed to get back to them writing a novel about them instead, called *The Wheel*. This became so successful that writing, not painting, became the focus of his life. He wrote at night, fuelled by cups of tea.

The style, if not the intensity, of his work has scarcely altered with successive books and growing popularity, particularly in Japan and America. He rises, as he always has, at six, and cooks himself a large breakfast. At nine he moves into his study, a room he likens to an operating theatre for its extreme cleanliness and order, and opens *The Children of Pride*, a collection of letters from the American Civil War, written on 1,050 pages of rice-paper. From this he reads, every day, one letter, "to distance myself from my surroundings."

Between nine and one he writes, throwing away sheet after sheet of paper (the best quality, a second

extravagance), until each page he completes is perfect. There is no re-writing. "Once I am into it it is like a tape unwinding."

In the afternoon he listens to music - Mahler, Debussy, Ravel - and reads - Hemingway, Salinger, Scott Fitzgerald, what he calls the "guisy" American novelists, and biographies.

Does he, perhaps, from time to time garden? "No, no, I never touch it." See friends? "No, very little." Take holidays? He seemed surprised. "No, I've never taken a holiday." Travel? He hesitates. "Well, I have been asked to go to Boston, because the university is collecting my papers."

Four of Leach's novels are set in America and though reviewers have found them so convincing they have tended to assume he is American, he has never actually been there. Could that mean a trip with his wife? "Um. Would it sound awful if I said I would rather go alone?"

Leach has always had a reputation for being a loner: he adds that he also hates possessions. "I wouldn't be sad to part with anything. Inside, I have a quietly contemptuous me looking at things I have gathered as being trivial and temporary. I love beginnings. What I like about life is the potentiality of beginnings."

On February 2, 1979, Christopher Leach's carefully-constructed routine was abruptly smashed when his 11-year-old son, Jonathan, died of asthma. Leach's response was to write about it. *Letter To My Son*, an attempt to

make himself understand and bear what had happened, won much critical praise. He told, almost dispassionately, the story of a crass television interviewer asking him whether it was written for the money. "I wrote it because I thought it might illuminate things and try to make it better for other parents who had no religion."

Did it make it better for him? "It was my way of dealing with it. When I saw him dead I thought: 'There is nothing there. It's a dead container.' The silence that follows someone's death is so profound." The Leaches have another son, Martin, 18, and now at college.

Ten months after Jonathan's death, Leach was writing that he was "trying to find an equilibrium". To judge from his productivity he would seem to have found one. But his sharp blue eyes still seem to look out on a bleak world from a great distance.

He talks fluently of his atheism, and his hope that he will write a book about how "a person without faith lives in a world that has no concern for the individual". Of his rich imaginary life, which makes what goes on inside his mind more real than what he sees around him: of his wish that one day he will have enough money not to have to work at such a relentless pace.

Since Jonathan's death, he says, "everything is heightened: like the fluffiness on that cup of coffee. It happens when you think you won't see it for ever". Has his son's death made him fearful? "No. I like stoicism, the thought that you can come to terms with yourself even if everything is taken from you."

Shining Mahler in the dark

ECO/Tate
Queen Elizabeth
Hall

In its enthusiasm for a new means of stage presentation, the South Bank management looks to be in danger of threatening the Queen Elizabeth Hall's concert facility. Not only does the built-up stage overlap a dozen rows of what used to be seats and look a mess, it significantly affects the acoustic properties when ensemble tone is squeezed between raised floor and overhead canopy.

The lighting at present is also hardly to anybody's advantage, least of all the soloist with the English Chamber Orchestra on Thursday night. Thomas Allen had to sing Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* with his face almost entirely in shadow, while the text in the programme was virtually unreadable beyond the first few rows.

CONCERTS

Musically, however, it was a performance to challenge memories of Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, different in character but by no means so in achievement. Where his German colleague was more self-tortured, Allen sang of loneliness and unrequited love with open and disarming candour. His interpretation suggested that Mahler was most himself in those songs for which he also wrote the poems: emotions are directly expressed rather than quoted.

Now completing his second year as the ECO's principal conductor, Jeffrey Tate brought the experience of his earlier work with singers to Mahler's benefit in relating voice to orchestra.

The composer's two *Wunderhorn* songs that began the concert's second half, however, were not as contrasted as they might have been had the

doomed drummer-boy of one not been made to sound almost jaunty in contemplation of his fate.

The concert began with Mozart's E-flat Symphony (No 39) that seemed propelled by the weight of its downbeats.

Even so, it was not without grace in the phrasing and became amiably relaxed in the lyrical passages. But in the finale there was often a lack of clear articulation among the strings.

Such a charge could not be laid at the reduced number (20) of players involved in *Verklärte Nacht* as Schoenberg expanded it from his string sextet version.

Nevertheless, he still calls on exposed solo writing at moments of intensity, and while this was finely sustained for the most part, some extra fluidity would have been welcome to generate more emotional heat.

Noel Goodwin

Charge of the heavy brigade

LPO/Eschenbach
Festival Hall

Surveying the awesome assembly for this concert - eight horns, eight percussionists, six trumpets, Festival Hall organ on red-alert and string sections topped up to match - some spectators might have wondered whether the proposed merger between the London Philharmonic Orchestra and one of its rivals had already been realized. Clinched in the tea-break during rehearsal, perhaps.

But no: there were a mere 111 players here, whereas total membership for the projected super-band is clearly understood (well, murky understood) to be set at 135 persons. This programme may have sounded noisy, but imagine what an difference those 24 reinforcements will make.

Nevertheless, if Arts Council grants were awarded according to who plays the most number of loud endings in one season (and, for all I know, they are) this concert will stand the LPO in excellent stead, as it seemed to be constructed according to a unique principle. Each piece began in a tender whisper, then became progressively tumultuous, until no more decibels remained to be squeezed from straining sinew or bursting lung.

Unfortunately, such entertainments follow the law of diminishing returns. So while one could thoroughly enjoy Christoph Eschenbach's patient and sumptuous build-up of the Prelude and Liebestod from Wagner's *Tristan*, and admire his brave attempt to be totally ecstatic about Scriabin's preposterously overblown *Poem of*

Ecstasy, it was difficult to keep patience with the procession of Ravel, in intellectually degenerating order, that followed.

The second suite of *Daphnis et Chloé* at least gave the LPO's stylish principal flute, Jonathan Snowden, the opportunity to display some exquisite, full-bodied tone. But *La Valse* seemed to grind on like a geriatric carousel, and this was succeeded (as if the symbolic disintegration of the entire Habsburg empire was not climax enough) by a performance of *Bohème* in which the solo side-drummer was given a place of honour alongside the conductor's podium. I would have preferred to watch a snaky Spanish dancer in full flow, but perhaps she is one of those 24 reinforcements.

The pleasure that Abbott and Holm extract from this

A Yankee doodle dandy

THEATRE

Three Men
on a Horse
Cottesloe

From O'Neill downwards, pre-war American drama of ten posches from European models. The great exception is farce, a gloriously indigenous growth (which apart from *The Front Page*) remains virtually unexplored over here.

It is largely the creation of George Abbott who, in various partnerships, produced a string of his pioneering a combination of farce and melodrama, establishing a comic playground on the verge of the criminal underworld subsequently internationalized by Damon Runyon.

As a slightly premature salute to Abbott's 100th birthday, Jonathan Lynn's National Theatre Group offer an expert revival of this 1935 collaboration with John Cecil Holm: a foolproof comic mechanism which Sam Shepard later parodied in *Geography of a Horse Dreamer*.

One can understand why the play appealed to Shepard, as it deals not only with horse-racing but also with magic deriving from the fairytale role that magicians are not entitled to work any spells on their own behalf. The magician in this case is Erwin Trowbridge, a meek writer of greetings card jingles who happens to be able to foretell the day's winners.

Beset by a skinflint employer, a free-spending wife and an overbearing brother-in-law, Erwin never considers using his gift to escape "the fun", he says, "would spoil the fun" and the magic only takes effect when he wanders miserably drunk into a bar and falls into the loving clutches of three professional gamblers.

The pleasure that Abbott and Holm extract from this



Sure bet: Geoffrey Hutchings, Desmond Barrit and Cyril Shaps in *Three Men on a Horse*

situation depends on their grip on an artificial world which is at once ruthless and innocent. For instance, Erwin is far more concerned with completing his assignment of 67 verses for Mothers Day than in foretelling what is going to win the 2.30.

The authors milk that for cross-purpose gags and then go on to show the crooks being moved almost to tears by Erwin's latest maternal *trouvaile*. As with all good farce, the play combines limitless inventive possibilities with a sense of inevitable direction,

which shows everyone being debauched by the prospect of unearned wealth with the exception of Erwin, who only longs to get back to work and knock his brother-in-law's block off.

Played in a toy-theatre box set, papered with outside dollar bills (designs by Saul Radomsky), the production is stylistically in the same league as Richard Eyre's *Gus and Dolls*. The hint of real violence, both in the domestic bullying and in Ken Stott's performance as the gang leader, anchors the piece in actual

ity and supplies a springboard into the comedy of soft-hearted sentiment.

Geoffrey Hutchings seizes on Erwin's total passivity as the clue to the role and achieves delicious comedy by sitting back, almost as a spectator of the frantic activity he has unleashed. Of course, it helps that the frenzy has been choreographed and revved-up to match the recurring accompaniment - "Tiger Rag" arranged as a Palais Royale gallop. A great night out.

Irving Wardle

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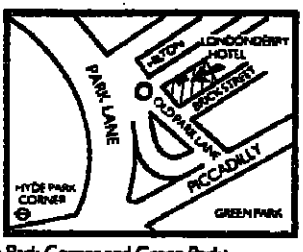
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REVIEW

Heading up country

ROCK RECORDS

The Judds: *Give a Little Love* (RCA PL 86013)

Here's a bargain. The Judds' latest album *Give a Little Love* comes complete with an additional five tracks from 1984's *Wynonna and Naomi*, which was released in America only. Then, as recent company strategies prepare to repeat last year's "Discover New Country" marketing campaign under the last three digits slogan "New Country 87", the mother and daughter duo from Kentucky are perfectly placed in the new country.

This Judds duo comes with the same trademark and genre identification of their first two albums: yet frequently expose their awareness of the broader range of styles now with hindsight to be connected to the music. They exhibit the characteristics for a light swinging version of the country. The "Don't Be Cruel" and "Sweetest Gift" are reminiscent of the harmonies of "The Sweetest Gift". Sentiments of ineffable love are miraculously rendered acceptable by the sweet conviction of their delivery, and if anyone is able to sell an idea as perpetuous as that of country being "new" it may well be these three-voiced kindreds.

David Sinclair

Echoes of Paris past

JAZZ RECORDS

Bobby Jasper Quintet: *For Robert Scott's 1962* (Jazz 11)

The makers of "Robert Scott's 1962" are not the only ones to have been inspired by the music of the late jazz pianist. The album is a tribute to the music of the 1950s and 60s, and the recorded music is a testament to the jazz tradition.

Only a few years ago, the music of the late jazz pianist was a rare sight. The album is a tribute to the music of the 1950s and 60s, and the recorded music is a testament to the jazz tradition.

His style strongly marked by the influence of Sonny Rollins (whose "Oleo" and "Pent-Up House" are featured in this set), Jasper was a worthy contender, with his own Tubby Hayes and the Frenchman Barney Wilen, for the title of Europe's champion. Over the next few weeks, all three were to die prematurely. Jasper can be heard at his most thoughtful in a long solo blues, poignantly titled "The Like Bird", no doubt in dedication to the most famous of all Paris's jazz expatriates. His flute, which appears on "It Could Happen to You" and "Dear Dad", remains one of Eric Dolphy's approach to the instrument: agile, lyrical, with a pretty tone, but conveying little feeling of substance.

Perhaps the most distinguished playing on the album comes from a second theme, the guitarist René Thomas, who went on to partner Stan Getz before his death in the middle 1970s. Thomas's clearly articulated single-note lines are full of good ideas and finesse, and the album is a testament to the jazz tradition.

Richard Williams

A sense of scales

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Davies: *Sinfonia concertante*, Sinfonia. SCO/Davies. Unichord-Kinchana DKP 9058 (black disc)

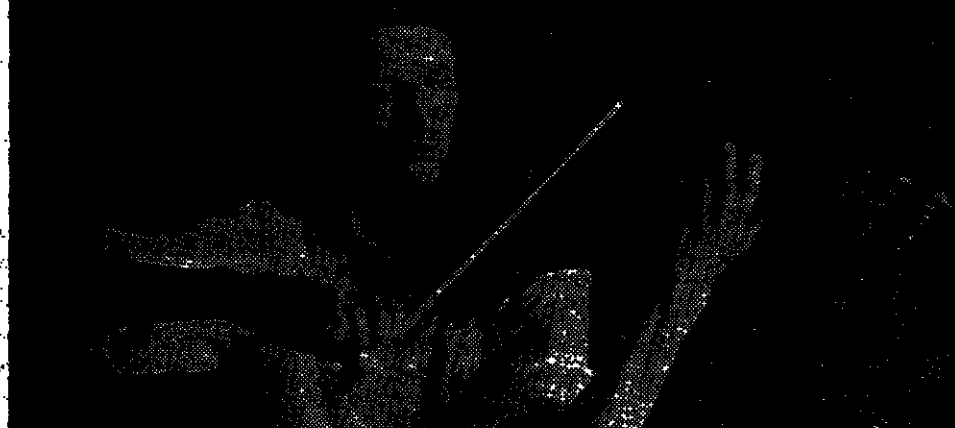
Berg: *Concerto*, Sinfonia. SCO/Davies. Unichord-Kinchana DKP 9058 (black disc)

With the new Unicorn-Kinchana record, plain Mr. Davies becomes Sir Max. Not only does the release coincide with his knighthood, it also offers two works which demonstrate the kind of creative misbehaviour that has made the composer seem less bizarre than it would have done a decade ago.

Of course, the possibility was always there. One could readily pick out short segments from the *Sinfonia* of 1962, particularly those featuring a virtuosic solo horn, and persuade oneself one was listening to the *Sinfonia* concertante of 20 years later. At the level of instrumental gesture and harmonic character, Davies's music has been quite astonishingly consistent and individual, and the music that was important to him in his twenties, especially Schoenberg's, has formed him too firmly to be forgotten.

But longer sampling of these two pieces, even though both are scored for the same orchestra of wind quintet and strings (with the crucial addition of trumpet in the *Sinfonia* concertante), would quickly reveal how far Davies has travelled. The difference is not essentially one of style. What the *Sinfonia* is constructed in a shattering paragraph, the *Sinfonia* concertante is a supremely confident sweep that carries the music forward right through the three movements.

The *Sinfonia*'s choice of notes often seems to offer one possibility from a large set of alternatives: there are decisive notes, of course, and in the opening string chords of the first movement they are unmistakable, but much of the detail one can imagine having been achieved differently. What is not in doubt is the



Three of the best: mature Maxwell Davies (top left), pensive Bernstein, unmissable Mullova

feel and dash of the recorded performance by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, among whom the whooping, wheeling horn player Robert Cook deserves special mention. The next Davies release should be Isaac Stern's recording of the *Violin Concerto*, but meanwhile CBS has reissued his 1962 version of the Berg concerto, accompanied by Bernstein, along with a recent performance of the Chamber Concerto, in which Peter Serkin is the co-soloist, with Abbado conducting the London Symphony Orchestra.

Abbado's response to Berg has always brought out the rich-textured brilliance and dramatic intensity of the music, and this performance

again is hot in pursuit of the strange ways Berg's passion takes. Serkin is so powerfully in command of the harmony that his part sounds unusually consonant, though no less complex, while Stern is ethereally removed, certainly in playing in the *Violin Concerto*, where the coarse recording has not been helped by digital remastering. Viktoria Mullova's record surpasses the exigencies of a quick review: here, quite simply, are 10,000 of the most beautiful sounds the violin has ever made, to be heard by anyone interested in violin playing, in Tchaikovsky, in Sibelius, or in life.

Paul Griffiths

Collected ingenuity

PAPERBACKS

"Fame is a shuttlecock", according to Samuel Johnson, sustained only when struck to and fro. Rudyard Kipling has been banded across the critical net on alternate charges — master story-teller but scorned imperialist, popular entertainer but bigoted jingoist. There is clearly more to Kipling than just good stories, well told.

Plain Tales from the Hills (Oxford, £2.50) is a collection of anecdotal snapshots of life in British India 100 years ago — entertaining glimpses of a colonial community governed more often by the whims of the manipulating widow, Mrs Hauksbee, than by any imperial dictates.

The obscurity of native laws fills "Beyond the Pale", a harrowing tale of a Hindu girl-widow punished because of a white man. Equally at home in barracks-room, ball-room or bazaar, Kipling's inexhaustible story-telling is barely contained in his refrain: "I knew a case once... but that was another story."

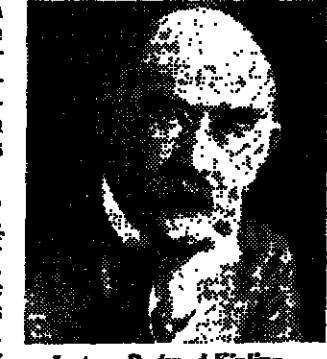
In *Life's Handicap* (Oxford, £2.95) cases become exploits. The dialects and manners of Privates Mulvaney, Leary, O'Rourke and friends are immortalized; each opens his heart to laugh, brag, or cry. Kipling stretches artistic credibility, introducing animals with quasi-human qualities... but that is another story. The original stories of *The Jungle Book* (Oxford, £1.95) surpass all rollicking Disney expectations. On one level, the Man-cub's education is pure entertainment; on another, the jungle is symbolic of Kipling's philosophy of life, a moral playground in which the young learn to swing on the vines of life. *The Day's Work* (Oxford, £2.95) is a mixed bag, celebrating the work ethic, and characterized by a Swiftian shifting of perspective.

Man, animal, and machine are seen in terms of one another. But anthropomorphism is overplayed; the speaking rivets, capstans and

cogs of "The Ship that Found Herself" are surely of limited appeal.

Machines aside, Kipling's best tales verge on the inexplicable, testing credulity. This world of dream suffices the aggressive atmosphere of Boer war-time, of cars, guns and telegraphs in *Traffic and Discoveries* (Penguin, £2.95). The narrator of "Wireless", called to witness a telegraphic signal, observes a dozing consumptive's mind attuned to Keats, transcribing times from a poem he has never read. It is ingeniously constructed to underline the co-existence of the mysteries of scientific and subconscious communication.

A Diversity of Creatures (Penguin, £2.95) is an apt title. Connoisseur of character and behaviour, Kipling tells of sky-petrolers of the future.



Just so: Rudyard Kipling

farical society-people, squinting dogs, drug addicts and rural folk, in verse and prose. He combines a compelling narrative with oblique forces at work, in "Sweet and Garnished", domestic routine is haunted by the horrors of the First World War. Frau Ebermann's flat is kept spotlessly clean, but feverish with flu, her obsession becomes a guilty nightmare of blood-cleansing.

Kipling writes to the tune of Gombin the one-eyed: "A tale that is told is a true tale as long as the telling lasts." His works, valued as a private voice or historic consciousness, leave one in no doubt that "it was so — just so — a long time ago".

Sarah Edworthy

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

He dunnit before

Brighton's Theatre Royal has been reprimanded by the Advertising Standards Authority for billing Anthony Shaffer's *Whodunnit* as "a new comedy thriller". The plot thickened when somebody complained he had seen the same play seven years ago, under the title *The Case of the Oily Levantine*.

The theatre admitted the title had been changed by the author in 1982, but said the play had been revised, and this was stated in the programme. However the ASA insisted that local adverts should have made clear it was not a "new" work in its own right.

Whither Hall?

With Richard Eyre confirmed as the National Theatre's next artistic director, speculation is mounting over the future of Sir Peter Hall after his contract expires next year. I hear he has been "responsive" to an offer from impresario Duncan Weldon to direct productions at the Haymarket with possible transfers to New York.

Two British music teachers are preparing for an unusually hazardous assignment against a backdrop of war, drought, famine and locust plague. Their unpaid task for six months is to teach western notation and introduce basic recording techniques to cultural groups in Tigre province, Ethiopia.

Slipped disc

Plácido Domingo's associations with the soccer world appear ill-fated. Following the Wembley furore, an appearance with England manager Bobby Robson at Covent

Garden this week was called off amid conflicting claims of innocence.

A record company which had signed up Robson to present Domingo with a gold disc says it was postponed because another group had booked the Royal Opera House's crush bar at about the same time. But I hear Domingo's people were annoyed that somebody had issued a general invitation to Fleet Street without telling them. His spokesman says the record company rejected a suggestion that it take place at the stage door: "They called it off, not us."

Time share

John Travolta may well take over the lead role in the West End musical *Time* for a few months after Cliff Richard's contract runs out in April. But I am told Travolta is not available for the full year, and discussions are taking place with two other luminaries of the pop world to share the load. They are George Michael, formerly of *Wham*, and Morten Harket of the Norwegian group *A-ha*.

Gavin Bell

CHESS

Cracker from the top draw

What constitutes a brilliant game of chess? At this year's Hastings Grandmaster Tournament the sponsors, Foreign and Colonial, offered the handsome sum of £300 for the single most brilliant performance. Over the next few weeks I will publish the leading candidates for the prize plus the winning game itself. I would be interested to hear from *Times* readers if their views coincide with my own.

This week's game is a runner-up — a beautifully played draw in which Black's brilliant sacrifices are parried by ice-cool defence. White: Petruson; Black: Gufeld.

Foreign and Colonial, King's Indian Defence

Ng2 is more usual and flexible. Black's reply 8... b5, a new move, offers a pawn sacrifice. If accepted, Black can complete his mobilization speedily and enter a kind of Benko Gambit where White's King is the target.

A logical continuation of the attack. Black prepares to conquer and occupy the c4 square with his Knight.

Now Black could draw with 20... Rxb3+ 21 axb3 Ral+ 22 Kc2 Ral+ etc... but he prefers to sacrifice a third pawn to prosecute his offensive.

White avoids 23 Kc2 Rb2+ 24 Bxb2 Ne3+ or 24 Kd3 Qxd5+ 25 Nxd5 Nde5+ and Black wins.

The dramatic climax of Black's attack. If now 25 Kd3 Qxd5+ 26 Nxd5 Nxc5 and White's King is slaughtered in mid-board. Also if 25 Kxc1 Qa3+ wins. Petruson finds the best defence.

White is passive but has a fortress set-up. Petruson felt that 36 f4 was his best chance. In any case, he is short of other moves and shedding the f-pawn decays Black's Queen from its threats against the White King.

Black only has practical chances to win this ending. In what follows he is blocked by resourceful defence at every stage.

Draw agreed. Black can no longer make progress.

Raymond Keene

BRIDGE

Playing a hunch to win

"Bridge players should stick to the odds, and let the gamblers play their hunches if they will." Most would agree with that as a general proposition.

But Benito Garozzo, one of the stars of the invincible Italian Blue team, often relied on his "nose". Playing the odds is fine, but not if it means total insensitivity to what is going on at the table. Here is an example, with some instructive points in the bidding as well as the play.

Rubber Bridge. Game All. Dealer South

W N E S
W 10978
N 4354
E 10978
S 4354

After winning the first trick with the ♠A, West, without much thought, switched to the ♠J. East took dummy's ♠Q with the ♠A and, presumably in the hope of giving West a club ruff, returned the ♠10. Declarer won in dummy and played a trump, noting East's ♠8 with interest.

For most players the evidence presented by the defence would be insufficient to

reject the "natural line" of ruffing a diamond in dummy, returning to hand with the ♠K and relying on a 3-2 trump break.

This declarer considered the matter more deeply. The lead of the Ace of diamonds might seem a natural choice on the bidding. But that is a superficial analysis. The North-South exchanges, with the reluctant support for each other's suits, surely indicated a disaster for no trumps and at least a partial misfit. If South had few hearts and clubs he must have diamonds. Therefore, a trump lead would normally be a sound attack. Even if that conclusion was arguable, West's refusal to switch to a trump at trick two was even more suggestive.

What about East's play of

the ♠8? True, it might be just a random spot card, but players with a doubler in the trump suit do not usually false-card.

Primarily influenced by the negative inferences attaching to West's defence, declarer decided to treat East's ♠8 as a true card. He cashed the ♠K and crossed to dummy with the ♠A to ruff a heart. Then he released the ♠Q and ruffed a diamond in dummy before scoring another heart ruff in his hand. With only ♠AJ9 remaining he played the ♠J, to encompass West in the web of an inescapable end-play.

"Anyone would have thought I had doubled," said West, in grudging admiration.

Jeremy Flint

Gavin Bell

Times Jumbo crossword winners and solution

The five winners of *The Times* New Year Jumbo Crossword published on January 1, who each receive a £50 prize, are: T. G. Jones, Woodlands Road, Witney, Oxford; E. Stanley, Tinsill Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire; D. M. MacArthur, Wellington Park, Clifton, Bristol; M. L. Smith, Loop Road South, Whitthaven, Cambridgeshire; and Toby Gee, Queens' College, Cambridge. Answers below.

ACTION SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS
L A N T R I N I N K E C A U W
C A N N I B A L I S I N G D A T U M C A N D I D A T E
O T G N E M H E R P O N N E
H A R P O D I S T A N T R E A L I S M E I G H T
O U P O I T L H S M S H
L A M P O O N I S T N O R T H A M P T O N S H I R E
O L G R U U E A D A N A
M A T E Y O P P R E S S E D S E P I A A D D E R
E R R A A E Y O E T L E T
T R A P P E D G O L E M I M P A R T I A L I T Y
E N E E A I E N E O O E
R O S E N C R A N T Z A N D G U I L D E N S T E R N
S P T E N R M W
R O Y A L C A N A D I A N M O U N T E D P O L I C E
S R O E U O N U I P N D
C I R C U M J A C E N T T U D O R S T E W A R D
B E T H P R R H H A K A T I
E M I L Y A R E N A O V E R T R U M P O C E A N
N O T S S R R E P N G
T E N D E R I S T H E N I G H T R E G E N T S H I P
R O P A R T I N D I A N A B O U N C E R E Y R I E
V P O L W S T B I O A S M S
A S H A N T I A M A T I A C C I D E N T P R O N E
T I I T R P V R H E C O N N
O L D L A D Y O F T H R E A D N E E D L E S T R E E T

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1164

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, January 29. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, January 31, 1987.

ACROSS
1 Parish official (6)
2 Wrinkle (6)
3 Take account of (4)
4 Reputation loss (8)
5 Golden Gate city (3,9)
15 Race related (6)
16 Camera stand (6)
17 Night history show (3,7)
23 Lawbreaker (8)
24 Nought (4)
25 Was stuck (6)
26 Ivy (6)

DOWN
1 Tie (4)
2 Curled lambs wool (9)
3 Tribal leader (5)
4 Mountain ash (5)
5 Civis (5)
6 Syringe (5)
10 Pass off (5)
11 Small Welsh dog (5)
12 Supplint (9)
13 Chances (4)
14 Muddle (4)
15 Bud (5)
19 Each (5)
20 Heavy coat cloth (5)
21 Gaiety (5)
22 Jot (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1163
ACROSS: 1 Acquit, 4 Repeat, 7 Unit, 8 Effusive, 9 Defiant, 12 Robert South, 15 Stied, 16 Blender, 20 Ecstacy, 21 Sari, 22 Tremor, 23 Diktat

DOWN: 1 Asunder, 2 Quiff, 3 Treen, 4 Riff, 5 Epitaph, 6 Trend, 10 Arc, 11 Brute, 13 Baitise, 14 Yorkist, 15 Scent, 17 Lucid, 18 Draft, 19 Star

The winners of prize concise No 1153 are: J. E. Nicklin, Turners Mill Road, Heywards Heath, West Sussex; and Mrs J. M. Lane, Brantingham Road, Walsley Range, Macclesfield.

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THE WEEK AHEAD



CONCERTS

SON OF POLAND: Arthur Rubinstein, the great Polish pianist who was born 100 years ago tomorrow, is remembered with a centenary concert attended by his widow and the Princess of Wales. The single work is the British premiere of Krzysztof Penderecki's *Polish Requiem*, conducted by the composer. It was written to commemorate the 1943 uprising by the Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto, and the shooting of shipyard workers in Gdansk in 1970. Royal Festival Hall, (01-928 8800), tomorrow, 7.30pm.



THEATRE

WANTON WIFE: Helen Mirren, an actress of power and presence, is soon to be seen in the film of Paul Theroux's novel, *The Mosquito Coast*. But meanwhile she returns to the stage to play the title role in *Madame Bovary*. This is the world premiere of a new play by Edna O'Brien based on the Flaubert novel about a woman of passion married to a dull provincial doctor. Michael Byrne, currently in the TV serial, *A Sort of Innocence*, is Charles Bovary. Palace Theatre, Watford (0923 25671), from Thursday.



TELEVISION

OLD FLAME: Bob Peck, who gave an unforgettable performance as the anguished hero of *Edge of Darkness*, plays Porker, an Oxford don who relives a childhood infatuation, in *After Pilkington* by Simon Gray. Miranda Richardson is Penny, the childhood sweetheart who comes back into Porker's life with disturbing results for both of them. Produced by Kenneth Trodd and directed by Christopher Morahan. *After Pilkington* is Gray's first television screenplay for more than five years. BBC2, tomorrow, 10.10-11.45pm.



OPERA

TOSCA UPDATED: Josephine Barston sings the title role in the new Jonathan Miller *Tosca* for the English National Opera, which was first performed at last year's Maggio Musicale in Florence. In sets by Stefanos Lazaridis which suggest a post-war Italian film, the production updates the opera to Nazi-occupied Rome in 1944. Jan Latham-Koenig makes his house debut in the pit. Neil Howlett is the Scarpia and Eduardo Alvarez the Cavaradossi. London Coliseum (01-836 3161), Wednesday and January 31, 7.30pm.



RADIO

ON THE SPIKE: Spike Milligan has been a surprisingly infrequent visitor to radio since the glorious days of *The Goon Show*, and that finished as long ago as 1960. Surprising, because no one has exploited the conventions of radio to greater comic effect. But now he is back with his own six-part series, *The Milligan Papers*, promising more moud-breaking humour in the company of Chris Langham, the writer John Antrobus and the musician George Chisholm. Radio 4, Wednesday, 6.30-7pm.



FILMS ON TV

ALPHA RAYS: Nicholas Ray, the cinema's poet of passion and pain, has a well-deserved season on BBC2. It starts today when his first film, *They Live By Night* (1948), a bitter-sweet study of love on the run, is intriguingly shown in tandem with the 1973 Robert Altman re-make, *Thieves Like Us* (9.55pm-1.30am). This afternoon there are showings of Ray's 1957 war film, *Bitter Victory* (2.15-3.55pm) and *Wind Across the Everglades* (4.15-5.45pm). Treats to come include his astonishing baroque Western, *Johnny Guitar*.

CONCERTS

STRAVINSKY/ORFF: The Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra brings these two ill-assorted composers together with performances of the former's *Rite of Spring*, the latter's *Carmina Burana*. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191) Today, 7.30pm.

MOZART/MAHLER: The veteran Rudolph Serkin solos in Mozart's Piano Concerto K451 and Claudio Abbado conducts the LSO in Mahler's Symphony No. 9. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-628 8795) Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

MAHLER/MOZART: The LSO is again conducted by Claudio Abbado in Mahler's Symphony No. 9, and Jean-Louis Steuermann solos in Mozart's Piano Concerto K453. Barbican Centre, Tues, 7.45pm.

FRENCH RARITIES: A rare chance to hear Chausson's delightful Concerto for Piano, Violin and String Quartet is offered by Ian Brown, Isabella Perrotian and the Quartet. The latter also plays a still greater rarity, d'Indy's Quartet No. 3. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-9352141), Wed, 7.30pm.

BEETHOVEN/ZUKERMAN: Given with the small-scale ECO, Pinchas Zukerman's account of Beethoven's Violin Concerto should be more intimate than most. He also conducts Schubert's Symphony No. 8 "Unfinished". Festival Hall, Thurs, 7.30pm.

RADIO

THE MILLER'S REEL: David Hayman and Phyllis Logan in "a love story for radio" compiled from the songs and letters of Robert Burns. Radio 4, tomorrow, 7.15-8pm.

THE TWO WORLDS OF JOSEPH RACE: An engrossing portrait by Steve Race of his remarkable Victorian grandfather, a Durham miner who became a Methodist minister and went on to be a missionary in China. Radio 4, Tues, 8.30-9.15pm.

BLUES WITH A DIFFERENCE: Kingsley Amis indulges a lifetime passion for jazz by assessing the achievement of half a dozen greats, starting with Bix Beiderbecke. Radio 3, Wed, 12.30-1pm.

THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD: Alun Lewis talks to experts about the future of the motor car and asks the 64,000 dollar question: will more electronics guarantee better reliability? Radio 4, Wed, 8.15-9pm.

FILMS

OPENINGS

ESCALIER C (15): A cynical, misanthropic art critic gets his comeuppance, partly thanks to his apartment building neighbours. Based on a prize-winning novel by Elvire Murat; directed, uncertainly, by Jean-Charles Tacchella, best-known for *Cousin, Cousine*. With Robin Renucci. Cannon Premieres (01-439 4470), Cannon Baker Street (01-935 9772), from Fri.

BOY SOLDIER (15): A private in the Welsh Guards is charged with murder following a shooting incident while on patrol in Northern Ireland. An earnest drama from the director of *Giro City*, Karl Francis, with screen newcomer Richard Lynch; filmed partly in Welsh. Metro (01-437 0757), from Fri.

SELECTED

THE NAME OF THE ROSE (18): Simplified edition of Umberto Eco's medieval murder mystery, filmed with a fine sense of atmosphere and a grotesque carnival of characters. Directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud; with Sean Connery. Cannon Haymarket (01-939 1527).

SALVADOR (18): Vivid political drama set in Central America.

GALLERIES

OPENINGS

INTERNATIONAL SILVER AND JEWELLERY FAIR: 38 dealers congregate to sell dazzling wares, old and new. There is also a loan exhibition of jewels presented to the nation through the National Art-Collections Fund.

The Dorchester, Park Lane, London W1 (01-734 5491). From Friday to Monday.

ERIC RAVILIOUS: Fascinating exhibition showing the wide range of his activities as a painter, illustrator and designer for pottery and glassware, before his early death while working as a war artist.

Crafts Council Gallery, 12 Waterloo Place, London SW1 (01-830 4811). From Wed.

JEAN-MAURIE TOULGOAT: Impressionistic paintings of gardens stylistically reminiscent of Monet, who was a relative of this artist.

Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, London W1 (01-499 6870). From Mon.

SELECTED

THE GOLDEN THREAD: Group show of younger artists including Edward Allington and Christopher Lebur who use elements of classical mythology in their work. Exhibition Gallery, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes (0908 605538).

STATE OF THE ART: An exhibition relating to a six-part series on Channel 4 (tomorrow, 8.15pm) addressing the issues and practices of international contemporary art.

The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 0493).

MASQUERADING: Touring show of elaborate, decorative masks and costumes worn at recent Notting Hill Carnivals. Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton (0902 24549).

JOHN LATHAM: Early constructions, made between 1954 and 1972, mostly from

second-hand books, by a formerly influential artist. Lisson Gallery, 68-68 Bell Street, London NW1 (01-724 2739).

ROGER HILTON: 20 late drawings by a much underrated St Ives School painter, who died in 1975.

New Art Centre, 41 Sloane Street, London SW1 (01-235 5844).

WILLIAM DANIEL (1769-1837): Landscape acquints made during this artist's Voyage Round Great Britain, between 1813 and 1823.

The Scottish Gallery, 94 George Street, Edinburgh (031-225 5955).

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CONVERSATION PIECE (1974): Burt Lancaster as a reclusive professor forced to review the disappointments of his life in a sombre final film by Luciano Visconti. BBC2, Fri, 11.20pm-1.20am.

TELEVISION

CHATEAUVALLON: The French answer to *Dallas* and *Dynasty*, a glossy soap opera set around an 18th century chateau. Each of the 26 episodes is being shown twice, dubbed into English on Mondays (Channel 4, 8.30-9.30pm) and with French subtitles on Wednesdays (Channel 4, 5-6pm).

RELATIVE STRANGERS: New series of the likeable sitcom starring Matthew Kelly and Mark Farmer as a carefree father and his long-lost teenage son. The policy this time is more characterization and fewer gags. Channel 4, Mon, 9.30-10pm.

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Forty Minutes film by Franco Rosso (director of *Babylon*) on how black self-help has defused a potential race explosion on a high-rise in Brent. BBC2, Thurs, 9.30-10.10pm.

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JOHN LATHAM: Early constructions, made between 1954 and 1972, mostly from

second-hand books, by a formerly influential artist. Lisson Gallery, 68-68 Bell Street, London NW1 (01-724 2739).

ROGER HILTON: 20 late drawings by a much underrated St Ives School painter, who died in 1975.

New Art Centre, 41 Sloane Street, London SW1 (01-235 5844).

WILLIAM DANIEL (1769-1837): Landscape acquints made during this artist's Voyage Round Great Britain, between 1813 and 1823.

The Scottish Gallery, 94 George Street, Edinburgh (031-225 5955).

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STRUGGLE FOR STONEBRIDGE

Forty Minutes film by Franco Rosso (director of *Babylon*) on how black self-help has defused a potential race explosion on a high-rise in Brent. BBC2, Thurs, 9.30-10.10pm.

AM I RIGHT OR AM I RIGHT?

In the wake of *The Singing Detective*, the most discussed television programme of 1986, an extended interview with the author, Dennis Potter. Though you would not always guess it from his work, Potter declares himself to be an optimist. BBC2, Fri, 9.30-10.30pm.

GALLERIES

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INTERNATIONAL SILVER AND JEWELLERY FAIR: 38 dealers congregate to sell dazzling wares, old and new. There is also a loan exhibition of jewels presented to the nation through the National Art-Collections Fund.

The Dorchester, Park Lane, London W1 (01-734 5491). From Friday to Monday.

ERIC RAVILIOUS: Fascinating exhibition showing the wide range of his activities as a painter, illustrator and designer for pottery and glassware, before his early death while working as a war artist.

Crafts Council Gallery, 12 Waterloo Place, London SW1 (01-830 4811). From Wed.

JEAN-MAURIE TOULGOAT: Impressionistic paintings of gardens stylistically reminiscent of Monet, who was a relative of this artist.

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SPORTING DIARY

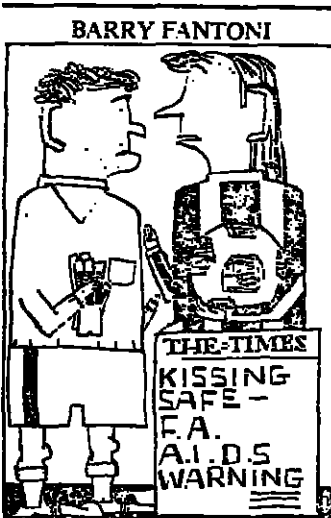
Simon Barnes

Broad view of openers

England's success in the Test series just concluded depended in no small measure on the solid opening partnerships of Athey and Broad, and I have been wondering how they rate alongside the game's immortals. Paul Fry, architect at Methodist College, Belfast, has the answer: they are England's ninth most successful openers against Australia. Fry has added together the runs scored at the fall of the first wicket and divided it by the number of innings the pair opened (excluding unbroken partnerships). Fry says the exercise is of doubtful validity, since it takes no account of the pitch or the strength of the bowling. He points out that Hurton and Washbrook could not quite average 50 — but they had to face Lindwall and Miller. The table, based on a minimum of five innings, reads: 1. Hobbs and Sutcliffe, 29; 2. Sutcliffe and Walters, 7; 3. 123 (unbroken); 77; 3. Boycott and Luckhurst, 7; 171; 75; 4. Hobbs and Rhodes, 18; 323; 61; 17; 5. MacLaren and Hayward, 13; 154; 58.92; 6. Richardson and Cowdrey, 8; 174; 58.87; 7. Boycott and Barber, 11; 254; 58.4; 8. Boycott and Edrich, 15; 161; 57.57; 9. Broad and Athey, 9; 233; 53.67.

Non-persons

Anyone who knows anything about football would agree that the Soviet Union produced one of the finest sides in the last World Cup, even if they didn't win much. The players were almost all from Dinamo Kiev, and produced some wonderful stuff. You might think it odd, then, that the official World Cup film, *Hero*, contains not a frame of the Soviets. This is interpreted as a wholly commercial move by the international football federation, FIFA, whose prime aim in making the film, it would seem, is making money in the West. Excellence is irrelevant.



Barry Fantoni

Super plus

No one is pretending that the heady whiff of commerce is irrelevant to the Superbowl, the American football final that takes place in Pasadena tomorrow. The match will be watched in 45 per cent of all American households, a bigger audience than any other programme in the year. The price for advertising during the innumerable commercial breaks taken by the players is a non-negotiable \$1.2 million per minute. Five years ago a minute cost a mere \$690,000. The most expensive ticket is \$75. But Superbowl tickets are not so much a way to see a football game as a medium for speculation. It's easy to get \$300 for a ticket; not impossible to get \$1,500. Giants are favourites at around 4-1 on and Broncos are 3-1. You can bet on anything — the longest kick-off, who will miss the first field goal, the points scored in each quarter, even the result of the toss.

● The big story of the week before the Superbowl is that Jim Burt of the Giants very nearly got one of his colleagues booked for a traffic offence. Such is the quality of news coming from this occasion.

Bath salts

As the wondrous excitement of the America's Cup continues to fire us all with waves of total indifference, a remark overheard in Fremantle sums it up: "It's just like playing with boats in the bath — except that billionaires can afford bigger boats and bigger baths than most."

Scrumptious

The best quote of the winter comes from Jonathan Davies, a Welsh rugby international who, in a fit of honesty for which the game is not famous, has said he would consider any sensible six-figure offer to join the professional code of rugby league. "I have a great dream about life," he said. "I would like one day to own a nice big house." The dreamer added: "With some land, as security for my family." "Security for my family" is sports-talk for pots and pots of money.

Well-heeled

As the weather continues on its ghastly way, now is the time to buy the wellies that the outdoor sporting person has always promised himself. "They are the best wellingtons it is possible to buy," the supplier tells me. "You can spend all day in them. They have a lip, are lined with chamois leather and are a snip at £110."

Phones: get that digital in

Jonathan Miller finds not only the strikers to blame for BT's present disruption

When engineers at the American Telephone and Telegraph Company went on strike for 26 days last year, there were delays in getting new equipment installed, but on the whole few people noticed. In Britain, one week into the industrial action called by the National Communications Union, the evidence suggests that the telephone service has noticeably deteriorated. More calls are failing to get through. The City, Britain's largest foreign currency earner, is threatened. Even emergency services are in jeopardy.

As the strike continues, the situation is likely to worsen rapidly. Up to a quarter of a million telephone lines a week are expected to go out of service in the absence of routine maintenance. It is too facile to blame a handful of militant strikers for using their power to hold the country to ransom. The union is not responsible for the technical vulnerability of the service. The blame must fall on British Telecom itself, and its government patron, for allowing the basic telephone system to remain firmly rooted in obsolete technology.

The roots of the trouble can be traced back at least 20 years, when new generations of electronic switching equipment started to be introduced in the US, France and other countries. All recognized that the key to modern telecommunications lies in the efficiency of the central telephone exchanges to which subscribers are

connected. The realization was followed by an intensive programme to replace mechanical exchanges with computerized, "digital" switching equipment.

These switches are expensive to install, but once they have been they require almost no maintenance, fewer staff, and there are dramatic real reductions in the cost of providing service. They permit much faster connection of calls and the support of a host of new services, such as itemized billing of long-distance calls.

Britain, however, has been slower to implement this technological leap forward. The clanking mechanical systems familiar to pre-war telephone engineers still predominate in our exchanges. Calls still click through with maddening slowness. Up to 12 per cent of all long-distance calls fail or provide unsatisfactory quality. With itemized telephone bills available to only a few thousand of British Telecom's 22 million customers, quarterly statements must be taken on faith.

British Telecom now claims to recognize the problem, but its response leaves much to be desired. Although it is spending nearly £1 billion a year in a belated effort to modernize, there is evidence that this sum is hardly making a dent in the problem.

Only about five per cent of Britain's telephones are connected to the most advanced types of digital exchanges. In France, by contrast, more than 50 per cent of the system has been digitalized.

In the United States, telephone subscribers have access to a host of value-added services, including call forwarding and abbreviated speed dialling. Computer data can be transmitted routinely over ordinary telephone lines at a speed of 9,600 bits of information per second. In Britain, speeds of 1,200 bits per second are considered the norm.

In France, by the end of this year, every telephone subscriber will be able to receive, free, a miniature computer terminal with which to look up telephone numbers and gain access to hundreds of information services. In Britain, calls to directory inquiries are all too often met by an engaged signal.

People who have not lived in France, the US or Japan are hardly aware of British Telecom's miserable standard. The government ought to know better. But for years, when the Post Office was responsible for the telephone system, its borrowing power was restricted, limiting its ability to invest in new equipment. Even when investment belatedly be-

came available there were delays in modernizing the network. Instead of ordering off-the-shelf exchanges available from abroad, British Telecom insisted on a made-in-Britain solution, ostensibly to protect British industry.

The result of this protectionism was self-defeating. As GEC and Plessey struggled at the time to produce a modern exchange that actually worked, the British telephone network continued to decay.

The government's answer has been to privatize the operation, and introduce competition. But privatization has done little more than turn an inefficient and underinvested government corporation into a similarly inept public one.

The introduction of competition has been equally ineffective in bringing change. Mercury Communications, the sole competitor to British Telecom, still has only a handful of customers, and is making no effort to market its service to any but the largest users of telephone services.

As the strike continues, and the telephone service goes from its normally poor standard to something worse, it would be timely for Whitehall to launch an inquiry into the state of the system.

If this results in British Telecom being told to speed up its modernization programme, to put the entire country on to digital exchanges within, say, five years, the National Communications Union will have done everyone a favour.

Dieter Buhl considers the outlook for West Germany after tomorrow's election

Tedium today —but watch out for sparks



There has been no real contest from the start. Rarely has a challenger looked weaker than the ragged and disunited Social Democrats. The problems that were supposed to have been over and done with after it lost power more than four years ago actually came to a head in election year. The Social Democrats have quarrelled about where they were going and who they should be following. They also suffer from the same problems as the British Labour Party or the Democrats in the US: their programme has not sufficiently reflected the change from an industrial to a service society. They have appealed principally to a blue collar workforce in sharp decline and have ignored the relatively selfish, upwardly mobile people in the service sector.

Even the SPD's choice of so well-tried a vote winner as Johannes Rau as their candidate has not helped very much. Rau has twice won an absolute majority of votes in his native North Rhine-Westphalia, the nation's most populous state. But aside from his integrity, humour and rhetorical talents, he has not had much to offer. But the wit with which he has fought his hopeless battle is appreciated: Germans don't usually have much to laugh at in politics.

With a divided party behind him, Rau has not been able to offer a convincing programme. He has even had difficulties in getting across his two main points — a firm commitment to Nato and a firm No to a coalition with the Greens — which are not accepted by all SPD supporters. A substantial number of his colleagues would like more flexibility in East-

West relations or they are pinning their hopes on cooperating with the Greens.

The prospect of a Red and Green coalition in Bonn, however, holds little attraction for Germans. Most believe that it would lead to the chaos that the conservatives have been warning against. Such a worrying scenario does indeed carry conviction. For while the Social Democrats suffer from disorder, the Green movement simply collapses. The Greens' idea of basic democracy presents solutions which a democracy even more mature than the German could hardly survive. To call for less industrialization (on environmental grounds) and oppose technological innovation, but to call at the same time for higher spending on social services, is to demand the impossible.

Today's Greens are described by the dictum which Thomas Mann once applied to all Germans: "As a people they are tragic, mythical, heroic but not political." Given this competition, it has been easy for the government to appear a bastion of good sense. Even Helmut Kohl has not been able to undermine its position, though his comparison between Gorbachev and Goebbels and his remark about concentration camps in East Germany left doubts about his wisdom. Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the Bavarian CSU and the second most powerful man in the conservative camp, is not known either as a champion of restraint or moderation. Both have appealed to an attitude of mind from which a chubby-faced nationalism and a new teutonic arrogance could easily grow.

Despite occasional derailments, however, the government can claim to be on the right track. As this image will very probably be rewarded in the polling booths tomorrow, the Christian Democrats' campaign call takes on a special meaning. They have appealed to the voters to "say yes to the future. But they left open the sort of future they were aiming for, so there is much room for speculation.

Past German leaders foretold great times for their people; the results we know only too well. Their present successors in Bonn promise quieter times. But what chance have they of keeping their promise? With many economic indicators worsening, public concern over the kidnapping of two West Germans in Beirut and the prospect of a tussle for power between the CDU, the Bavarian CSU and the Free Democrats, a victorious coalition faces plenty of problems. What happens in Bonn after the election, therefore, could make the campaign look even more boring in retrospect than it actually was.

The author writes on German politics for Die Zeit.

Woodrow Wyatt

Let Channel 4 flow free

Channel 4, intended to reach the parts the other TV networks don't, has been a remarkable success since it was launched in November 1982. Its weekly average of viewers is 7 to 8 per cent, sometimes rising to between 9 and 10 per cent. Tilted somewhat to the left in its current affairs at the beginning, it now has a reasonable balance, taking one programme with another. Its extended news from 7 pm is a blessing for those who want more than they get from ITV and the BBC.

On culture it has been excellent, and its coverage of live racing is valuable to punters and bookmakers. Its broadcasts for ethnic minorities have been laudable, though proving a pleasing point, they are seen only by some 300,000, suggesting that the great bulk of the non-white population prefers assimilation by watching what everyone else does to accentuation of their separateness.

Originally, the ITV companies strongly opposed Channel 4 because they had to fund it by subscriptions. Its success has steadily diminished the burden, until it is now trifling. In the year to the end of March, the ITV companies will subscribe just on £136 million plus another £20 to £25 million for transmission costs. But advertising attributable to Channel 4, for which the ITV companies get the cash, is running at £120 million a year, and rising. As the gap of around £40 million between the cost of Channel 4 and its attributable advertising revenue is chargeable against levy and tax, the finances of the ITV companies are barely affected.

Professor Alan Budd of the London Business School reported last October that if Channel 4 time were sold by the ITV companies at the same rate per thousand viewers as the rest of ITV time, Channel 4's revenue would already be greater than what it receives in subscriptions from the ITV companies. The prospects are that advertising intended for Channel 4 will grow substantially. It has two advantages over the other ITV companies in that it is national, whereas they are regional, and has a distinctive upmarket flavour.

Edmund Dell, the chairman of Channel 4, is in favour of ending its dependence on the ITV companies. It might be supposed that they would be delighted at being relieved of this unwanted baby. Not at all. Their cost of the baby's upkeep after relief from tax and levy payable to the Treasury is substantially passed on to the taxpayer, but the praise of the ITV companies' public spirited behaviour lingers on. It is a useful amulet to ward off those who

think that the monopoly power of the ITV companies should be broken and that their franchises should not be awarded on subjective judgments on programme quality but on the brutal dictates of the market place. The highest bidders would get the licences.

They would still have state monopolies but at least the state would get more money for them. It might then be possible to end the levy system based on profits rather than turnover. Currently the levy chargeable is 45 per cent of profits, a system which offers an inducement to careless spending. That is why the ITV companies are overmanned by overpaid staff, particularly on the filming side. This puts pressure on the BBC to pay higher wages for its equivalent staff, which it is less able to do now that its subsidy from the licence payer has been index-linked.

Another reason for the ITV companies wanting to continue their funding of Channel 4 is that at the moment they sell to Channel 4 one third of its output, thus making the financial burden of sustaining it even less. If Channel 4 was independent this agreeable source of revenue would be at risk.

Under the Act which set up Channel 4 it has legal obligations to cater for minority and specialized interests. The ITV companies argue that if it were independent there would be an irresistible temptation to go down market to capture their audiences and those of the BBC. But there is no reason why an independent Channel 4 should not have precisely the same legal obligations as today. Moreover, its strength lies in being equivalent to the quality papers in its appeal to audiences and advertisers.

Some powerfully placed in Channel 4 fear freedom and prefer the cosy arrangement by which, whatever happens in the untidy world outside, their income is assured. But they only have that cosy arrangement because it was assumed wrongly by many that Channel 4 could never pay for itself, whereas in a few years its growing advertising revenue could make it a handsome profit.

It must be in the spirit of the Thatcher government's idea to create another voice that, now that Channel 4 is able to do without help or pressure from the ITV companies, it should be set free from ownership by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, either as an ordinary profit-making company or as a statutory organization analogous to the Tote, which has no shareholders and makes substantial profits. Why not put that in the next Conservative manifesto?

Michael Kinsley

It runneth over, it runneth out

New York The American obsession with Australia is about to peak with the America's Cup competition, in which two of the world's most ostentatiously anti-anti societies are locked in national combat over a yachting trophy. Australia strikes the American visitor as the American dream come true: a prosperous and yet virtually classless society. Australia's per-capita income of \$10,000 (£6,600) is close enough to America's of about \$12,000, and there is far less wretched poverty or great wealth. When you consider that the sunshine and the beaches are free, it's hard not to agree with the sentiment cited by Donald Horne in his 1964 book, *The Lucky Country*: "In the pursuit of happiness for ordinary people, Australians believe they are already ahead of America."

It was not always thus. By the 1830s, writes Robert Hughes in *The Fatal Shore*, his new book about Australia's early days, "Australia was as class-obsessed a society as any in the world." Fifty years after its founding as a dump for Britain's criminal refuse, it wanted respectability. The "exclusives" (British officers who had become large landowners) looked down on the "sterling" (free immigrants) who looked down on the "currency" (native-born offspring of convicts) who looked down on the prisoners.

Hughes, writing in *Vanity Fair*, denies that today's Australia is truly egalitarian. (What self-respecting intellectual could admit such a thing about his own society?) He says Australia's style is fraternal and resists the glorification of celebrities. "No Australian politician could surround himself with the trappings of recent American presidencies, the manipulation of imagery... and hope to get elected."

What's intriguing for the American is that Australia's bourgeois Utopia of liberty, equality, fraternity and prosperity was achieved un-self-consciously, without any prevailing ideology or national founding myth to help it along. Quite the reverse, in fact. Hughes writes: "The late 18th century abounded in schemes of social goodness... But here, the process was to be reversed: not Utopia, but Dystopia; not Rousseau's natural man moving in moral grace amid free social contracts, but man coerced, exiled, decimated, in chains." Of course, few of today's Australians can actually trace their descent from prisoners, just as few Americans can trace their own back to the colonists. The percent-

age of Americans whose ancestors arrived in chains as slaves is probably not too different from the percentage of Australians whose ancestors arrived in chains. But we Americans take our myths seriously. It's starting to reflect that in Australia there are no Pilgrim fathers, no Declaration of Independence, no Chief Justice (like our own Warren Burger) urging cereal companies to print the Constitution on their boxes in honour of its 200th anniversary. "We hold these truths to be self-evident," says the American Declaration of Independence. Australians hold these truths to be so self-evident that they never even wrote them down. Yet in some ways today their nation is more American than America.

The experts explain Australian society as British working-class culture grown warm and fat in the tropical sunshine. So what happens when the easy prosperity on which that egalitarian spirit rests starts to fade? Donald Horne noted more than two decades ago that "a nation more concerned with styles of life than with achievement" had created "a social climate largely inimical to... the desire for excellence (except in sport) and in which there is less and less acclamation of hard work."

Today, many Australians complain that the egalitarian spirit actually threatens the nation's prosperity by creating an "anti-success attitude" that sneers at entrepreneurship and hard work. In a world where natural resources matter less and human organization matters more, bountiful Australia — even more than bountiful America — finds itself being approached and surpassed by crowded, barren nations like Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore.

The country's leading historian, Manning Clark, has described the national attitude that emerged from the gold fields a century ago: "If you could not work, you were of no use, and would infallibly sink in the social rank in a society in which physical activity and industry were made the highest standards of a man's ability for getting on in the world."

Yet a generation or two in the Lucky Country seems to sap these juices, even more than a generation or two in the land of the free and home of the brave saps the juices of young Americans in the eyes of immigrant grandparents. The America's Cup may be a race between two lucky countries whose luck is running out.

© Times Newspapers, 1987. The author is editor of New Republic.

Perdition: killed by its blatant lie

Barbara Amiel challenges the Royal Court's reason for cancelling its Holocaust play

After the cancellation of *Perdition*, Royal Court artistic director Max Stafford-Clark said the theatre did not accept that it was inaccurate or anti-Semitic; only that it would cause great distress to "sections of the community."

This statement angered those members of the Royal Court board and Jewish leaders who had opposed the play. *Perdition* argues that Hungarian Zionists collaborated with the Nazis on the grounds that the more awful the massacre of the Jews, the better the chances of establishment of the State of Israel. The play's author, Trotskyist Jim Allen, went even further in interviews, saying that all over Europe "Jews were massacred because their leaders covered up for the Nazis."

Just how accurate such general accusations are may be judged from the fact that historian Martin Gilbert was able to compile a list of 60 errors of fact, some of which were in the best tradition of the *Der Stürmer* school of Jew-baiting. One scene, for instance, has Jews waiting to be deported, lying in a field listening to the sounds of a party being given by the Jewish Council for the SS.

This is based upon a famous incident in Skaled, Galicia, in which the Jewish Council was rounded up and ordered to give names of other Jews for deporta-

tion. The entire Jewish Council refused and was shot. A second level of Jewish elders was also rounded up and shot when they refused to collaborate. Eventually, a handful of Jews were forced by threats to their families to reveal the whereabouts of other Jews and then compelled to attend a party given by the SS. The play reduces this tragic incident to a grim accusation of collaboration, omitting all details of Jewish heroism. There is, of course, no respectable debate over the absurd idea that Jews collaborated with the Nazis in effecting the Holocaust. The Nazis had no need of Jewish help in this matter, and insofar as some Jews may have "co-operated", it would have been for a piece of sausage for their families rather than for the existence of the State of Israel.

All the same, opponents of the play conscientiously dissected the distortions of *Perdition* and waited for an apology. What they got was Stafford-Clark's statement standing by the play's accuracy, and giving implicit support to the idea in the next day's newspaper headlines that the Jewish lobby had "banned" the play.

What does it mean to stand by a play's integrity? If major errors of fact and interpretation in a play pretending to historical accuracy have been pointed out by qualified critics, surely two courses only are open to its author and supporters. Either they can effectively refute the criticisms with chapter and verse of their own, or they can retract their accusations the play contains. Mr Allen and Mr Stafford-Clark have done neither of these things. They are therefore "standing by" vile accusations they cannot sustain — essentially the position of the libeller.

Still, this should not perhaps have surprised anyone. People when attacked will defend themselves. It is a natural instinct to be as false in the defence of a lie as in the original lie. It was not likely to occur to Mr Stafford-Clark at this late date that the fact that some people on the Royal Court board who objected to the play were Jews was utterly beside the point. He could not be expected to see the obvious point that a civil rights protest cannot be denigrated because it happens to include Negroes.

Anti-Semitism, of course, like

any other kind of racism or tribalism, cuts across all political lines. But unlike the plain ordinary Right-wing or middle-of-the-road anti-Semitism, the Left-wing anti-Semitism would be in grave difficulties without the State of Israel on which to vent his spleen. Their Left-wing religion would forbid them to express anti-Semitism by anything but anti-Zionist statements. Whether this is true of *Perdition* or whether it belongs to a cruder tradition would perhaps require a closer reading of the play than most people will be able to obtain since it is now unobtainable from the Royal Court Theatre. "It doesn't exist," says their press office.

Those of us who have a deep ingrained dislike of censorship would have been most offended to see government action under Hate Literature legislation used against the play in order to ban it. All one can do is point out errors and claim victory whenever they appear loudly and clearly. As for the future of the play, supported by *Perdition*, let them take the consequences of their actions. That is not up to theatre critics or commentators or special interest groups, but those who in the normal course of events would decide administrative matters at the Royal Court Theatre.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

JUSTIFICATION BY UNITY

Not everyone will be easily persuaded that the Reformation, one of the greatest upheavals in European history, was only a misunderstanding about the use of certain words. The history books record, with varying emphases, that the disagreements were real enough at the time for Christians to spill blood over them. The Reformation was that dangerous combination: a theological difference with immense political and social overtones. The difference became a dispute, and the dispute a conflict.

It has happened often enough since, and still happens today; but not any more, except perhaps in Ireland, in a Christian context. Politically speaking, the embers of the Reformation are dead ones. What remains as its memorial is the debilitating division of the Christian religion into separate camps.

The Ecumenical Movement is the modern attempt to overcome those differences, and if it is to be successful it will have to happen at every level, from the parish to the papacy, at the level of reason and at the level of emotion. Both poles are well illustrated this week.

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes ordinary members of one church into the unfamiliar territory of another, to bring — under the banner of a warm-hearted inter-denominational truce — Baptists into Anglican pulpits and Catholics into Methodist ones. And the publication of a new joint theological statement by the Second Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission, a new "substantial agreement" no less significant than his predecessors, is an appropriate reminder that local good will is not enough, and ecumenism needs work with the head as well as with the heart.

It is the verdict of that commission that the Reformation was indeed a misunderstanding — no doubt generated by ill-will and vested interests on both sides — about certain key words and concepts at the centre of Christianity's self-knowledge. Luther's polemical

ation of justification by faith alone was meant, initially, as a protest at certain mediaeval Catholic practices which seemed to encourage the faithful the hope that they could save their own souls by merit, rather than relying on the freely given mercy of God. But Luther soon built his protest into an assault on the whole papal edifice, which he saw as irredeemably anchored in heretical beliefs, of which its promotion of "salvation by good works" was just a part, albeit the root of the trouble.

Catholicism was no tolerator of such insults, and responded with its own ruthless Counter-Reformation of persuasion and persecution. But it responded internally too, the Council of Trent adopting a surprisingly self-critical spirit on at least some of the points the Reformers were shouting about — without admitting, of course, that they had any right to shout. But the verdict of history had been written by then: Catholicism and Protestantism were irreconcilable, being opposing views each of which eliminated the other.

It is a mark of the work of the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission that it has never been prepared to accept historians' judgments as decisive on theological disputes, nor to allow itself to fall in thrall to popular prejudice. It has done what it hardly seemed to occur to anyone to do before, to check such fixed conclusions against the facts. It is able to do so because each theological tradition has at last become accessible to the other in an atmosphere free from point scoring. Protestant scholars can explore the decrees of Trent without fear or favour, and Catholics the writings of Luther and his contemporaries.

The latest statement is the fruit of what they have found, partly rooted through the earlier work of an American inter-church study, the Roman Catholic-Lutheran Consultation of 1983, which was itself indirectly derived from pioneering work by the Ger-

man theologian Hans Küng. And what they have found is that in the theological speculations of the Reformation the Protestants were relying on Greek, the Catholics on Latin. For the former were attempting a fresh examination of the New Testament in its early sources, and the latter were working within the scholastic framework of mediaeval theology.

Out of this emerged two usages for similar concepts, justification and sanctification, but no common ground as to the boundary between them. Whether these two aspects of the process of salvation are cause and effect, or whether they proceed in parallel may imply different doctrines of grace and salvation — or it may imply that these terms are being given different shades of meaning. The commission concludes that Reformation theologians were too busy with winning the quarrel to notice the disparities in concept and language. In any event they were quickly committed to the opinion that their opponents were malicious heretics, incapable of speaking the truth anyway. Where there is no trust, there can be no understanding.

The exact formularies the commission has chosen to express its discovery of this common faith will be subject to close scrutiny by experts and by persistent partisans, but the fact of an agreement is what matters. The dispute between Luther and Trent has a sense of remoteness to it; and the theology of justification is no longer a central issue in any church.

Symbolically, it will be enough for the world to note that a mixed collection of cautious theologians, each bringing their inherited denominational suppositions with them to the conference table, have found nothing important to disagree about any more, once they truly understood each other. And that should be enough to bury the Reformation's principle theological hatchet, once and for all. This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has something to celebrate.

TAKING THE TEMPERATURE

The latest opinion poll will give Labour new heart while introducing a note of caution into any assessment of the Government's election prospects. After a month in which the Conservatives have enjoyed a lead over Labour in the polls of between one and five per cent, yesterday's Gallup poll in the *Daily Telegraph* put Labour five points ahead.

Government apologists will be quick to dismiss the result as unrepresentative of the underlying trend. So it may be. An average of recent polls is usually more reliable than a single result, and on average recent polls have been consistently in the Government's favour.

Nevertheless, the result does underline the fragility of the Conservative lead. Although the Government appears so far to have escaped any serious fall-out from the Guinness scandal, it would not take a lot to erode a lead of only a few points. A few false moves in an election campaign could easily destroy it. And the more volatile the results of the polls, the more difficult it is to divine their underlying message.

Yesterday's reaction in the foreign exchange market also

underlines the Government's vulnerability on sterling. As soon as details of the poll became known, dealers in the Far East marked the pound down sharply. In London sterling opened lower against both the Mark and the dollar. Later there was some recovery as dealers reassessed the poll's significance, but the extent of the reaction was a sharp reminder of the political influences on sterling in the present pre-election period.

Currency traders are prepared to forgive the Government a good deal so long as they think it will win the election. Higher public spending, a consumer credit boom, the money supply overshooting its various targets — all seem to be acceptable to overseas holders of sterling, perhaps even desirable, if they increase the chances of re-election for the Tories. Labour's expansionary policies are seen as dedicatedly inflationist. If Mrs Thatcher's policies prove to be imprudent, however, the market is confident that the Tories would tighten policy again (once safely re-elected).

But the reaction to the possibility of Mrs Thatcher's

defeat raises a spectre for the Tories. Might not a malign spiral develop in which a setback in the polls undermines the pound, and the fall in the pound undermines confidence in the Government, which further undermines the pound, and so on? The effect of polls on the outcome of elections is already controversial. Foreign exchange markets could amplify the influence of the pollsters still further.

It is far from clear, however, that it is in Labour's interests for this kind of spiral to develop. While any nervousness on foreign exchanges underlines the increased likelihood that Labour will win, it also dramatizes the unsoundness of Labour's economic policies in the eyes of the world.

The Government may be seen as having the major responsibility for the currency. But the implied comment on Labour's policies is scarcely complimentary. The argument advanced by Mr Hattersley that the economy is heading for perdition under its present management could backfire if he were to draw attention to the foreign exchange market's view of Labour's own policies.

FOURTH LEADER

The French Government has announced that a new tax is to be imposed, on matches and cigarette-lighters. At first sight, there seems nothing especially out of the ordinary about the proposal. Governments of all countries must constantly be seeking new ways of getting their hands into the taxpayers' pockets, and such familiar objects as matches and cigarette-lighters — the former sold in tens of millions, the latter, though not so ubiquitously used, in substantial numbers — seem reasonably ripe for taxing. In fact, we were not planning to give the news a second thought, when our eye fell upon the reason given by our friends across the Channel: figure to yourself, my small cabbage, that the tax is to be introduced in "an attempt to combat thousands of forest fires that devastate the south of France each summer".

We yield to none in our admiration of the French people as comprising the su-

premiely rational nation. And we truly sympathise with them when we learn that many of their beautiful trees have been destroyed in fires. But trying, in this instance, to match the cause to the effect, we confess that after a time we became positively dizzy.

Economists tell us (have you ever noticed that economists tell us only things we already know?) that any tax will have the effect of lessening the number of purchases of the goods or services taxed. No doubt the French will now buy fewer matches and cigarette-lighters. But is it seriously suggested that virtually the entire country will give up the means of making fire, so that no forest can be set ablaze because there will be nothing to start the conflagration?

Prometheus, get off that rock: you have urgent business in France. Or to put it another way, where is Descartes now that he is really needed? We

have all heard of the primitive tribe which believes that the waving of the trees causes the wind; but we never suspected that the tribe in question was the French. After all, the tax on a box of matches can only be a few centimes, which will not deter even the poorest smoker; a lighter, which in its most primitive form might cost perhaps twenty francs, could bear a heavier burden, but all that would happen if it were obliged to do so is that the users of lighters would switch to matches, which might be good news for the revenue, but hardly for the fire-brigades of Provence.

Whatever next? A tax on newspapers, to reduce the incidence of eye-strain? A tax on walls, to deter the scribbles of graffiti? A tax on boots, to end the menace of corns? Stay: what about a swingeing tax on Ministers of Finance and Chancellors of the Exchequer, to discourage the introduction of daft new taxes?

Brain death and transplants

From the Chairman of the Conference of Medical Royal Colleges and their Faculties in the UK
Sir, I have been asked by the Conference of Medical Royal Colleges and their Faculties to express our appreciation of the balanced way in which your leader of January 19 dealt with the problem of donor organs for transplantation. The various options discussed by you for increasing the supply of donor organs will be considered by our working party.

You are probably correct in your assumption that hospital staff often fail to ask for permission to use organs of their dying patients. Nevertheless, we should not overlook the importance of public attitudes.

In 1980, the *Panorama* programme which questioned the criteria for brain death was followed by a decline in the number of available organs. Conversely, after the publicity given to the Ben Hardwick case there was a significant increase in organ donation.

As you say, reports continue to be published about doctors who have doubts about the criteria and the way they are applied. In view of the serious ethical and religious implications, the fact that some doctors beg to differ is not surprising.

The colleges have not treated this matter lightly. The criteria for brain death were first promulgated in 1976. They have been reviewed in 1979, 1981, 1983, and 1986 and we shall continue to keep them under review. The recent decision by the Conference of Colleges to reaffirm its support for the criteria was influenced by three points:

1. No new evidence has been adduced to cause us to amend the criteria.
2. Over 1,000 patients diagnosed as brain dead by these criteria have been maintained on life-support systems. In all cases the heart stopped, usually within 72 hours.
3. We have repeatedly asked our critics to produce evidence that any patient has survived after brain death has been established by these criteria; this they have failed to do.

I hope the public will accept this reassurance. Yours faithfully, RAYMOND HOFFENBERG, Chairman, Conference of Medical Royal Colleges and their Faculties in the UK, Royal College of Physicians of London, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, NW1, January 22.

No hedge against snow

From Mr R. M. Lang
Sir, Mrs Glyn, writing (January 21) about snowdrifts in Oxfordshire roads says that "Hedges would, of course, stop the snow well before the roads".

It's not as simple as that. If the hedge is on the side of the road from which the blizzard is blowing, its effect is to interrupt the aerodynamic flow and to create local turbulence. The disturbed airstream can then no longer support its load of snow, which drops on the lee side of the hedge, i.e., on to the road.

A better answer might be to plant a hedge 50 to 100 yards from the road on the weather side, but how many farmers could be persuaded to accept this?

Yours faithfully, MONTY LANG, 7 Townsend Lane, Almondsbury, Bristol, Avon, January 22.

Loans to doctors

From Mr A. J. Gunson
Sir, Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Health, is reported (January 19) to have asked the General Practice Finance Corporation to invite banks and building societies to contribute to loans to doctors.

A few insurance companies, including my own, offer such facilities already. During the past two years we alone have lent £14 million on surgery premises throughout the United Kingdom, some of which I would describe as being in inner-city areas.

From the lender's point of view the loan is normally made acceptable by the financing arrangements made between the health service and the doctor. Yours sincerely, ADRIAN GUNSON (Investment Manager), Norwich Union Insurance Group, PO Box No 4, Surrey Street, Norwich, Norfolk, January 21.

Koran in translation

From Mr Syed G. U. Syedain
Sir, As a Muslim who has lived in Western Europe for most of his life I was very disappointed to read Mr Philip Howard's recent article, "Muhammad of the paperback" (December 10).

To imply that "Western Europeans" find Buddhism "silly", certain sects of Christianity "mischievous and mad", and "Mohammedanism" "the most harmful and dangerous of the First Division monotheistic religions" is not only outrageous but truly offensive to me and my fellow Muslims, as well as to society in general.

It is difficult to understand how, in researching the background to this article, Mr Howard could have made the fundamental mistake of calling Islam

Furniture that looks the part

From the Chairman of English Heritage

Sir, Now that your Diary story (January 12) about furniture for Chiswick House has produced a comment (January 20) in your correspondence columns, perhaps I should explain the English Heritage position.

In presenting buildings and their contents to the public we aim at historical accuracy wherever that is possible. At Audley End, for instance, research has enabled us to put back furniture and pictures to the position which they occupied in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Where there are no historical records, properties in our care have occasionally been furnished with modern craft furniture designed to give scale and purpose to interiors, a better example being Kirkham House, Paignton. We intend to pursue this policy where possible.

At Chiswick House, much of the original furniture exists at Chisworth, but is not available to put back in the house. With the Duke of Devonshire's agreement we plan to have it copied, so that the rooms can be restored to their original appearance and thus increase the interest and enjoyment of visitors.

This will be equally correct but much less expensive than it would have been to buy William Kent furniture. I am glad to say that a most generous private donor from America has made it possible to start and continue the process. Yours faithfully, MONTAGU OF BEAULIEU, Chairman, English Heritage.

Historic Buildings & Monuments Commission for England, Fortescue House, 23 Savile Row, W1, January 21.

From Mr John Mein
Sir, Chiswick House, "too small to live in but too large to hang on your watchchain", has long been the target of wits and the butt of modernists. Therefore it comes as no surprise that Mrs Manser (January 20) should advocate filling the lovely rooms of Inigo Jones and William Kent with "modern pieces" of furniture rather than classical reproductions favoured by English Heritage.

Chiswick House was designed by Lord Burlington (who so endearingly declared, "I did nothing except pay the bills") as a Palladian villa attached to his Jacobean mansion wherein to display his fabled collection of pictures and sculpture. Not, you may note, furniture, so nothing could be more ridiculous than placing modernistic objects in such a unique, classical ambience.

Pub-bombing cases

From the Minister of State, Home Office
Sir, Contrary to what Mr Robert Kee (feature, January 22) says in his campaign on behalf of those convicted in the Guildford and Woolwich and Maguire cases, the Home Secretary did not say or imply in the House of Commons on Tuesday that "he had no doubt about the rightness of the convictions". He was at pains to emphasise that it was not his function to second-guess the courts on the basis of evidence which they had already considered.

What he said was that he was satisfied that there was no new evidence or consideration of substance which had not been considered by the courts and which cast doubt on the safety of the convictions; and that, in those circumstances, it would be wrong for him to interfere in any way with the convictions.

Mr Kee went on to argue that there is no need for new evidence or a new consideration of substance but that, in any case, there were two new pieces of evidence. On the first point, the criterion which the Home Secretary applied

never intended? I would like to see it referred to the State at death and used where it is really needed — for disabled people in the community. I might add that the administrative cost of looking after these accounts is also very high. As far as health-care goes it is all dead money and wasted administrative effort.

If my authority is an average one, there could be £68 million lying idle and increasing each year which could be put to needy use. It should be.

Yours faithfully, BARBARA LYNDON SKEGGS, (Member, Northumberland Health Authority), Oakhall, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland, January 7.

From Mr F. G. Dawson
Sir, Proposed legislative changes providing increased prison sentences for insider dealers, as reported in *The Times* today (January 19), contrast sharply with earlier methods of dealing with this venerable problem.

On September 30, 1826, *The Times* reported that the agent bank for the Chilean Government bond issue contracted in 1822 had announced that the dividend payment due October 1 would not be paid. Chilean bond quotations dropped abruptly.

As your Money Market correspondent reported, when the announcement was made a "fracas" erupted on the floor of the Stock Exchange. A broker (who was also a member of Parliament) was accused by a colleague of selling a large block of Chilean bonds prior to the announcement of the default when he must have known from his connections with the agent bank that they were valueless.

The charge was denied "in language the most direct and the least ceremonious". Cards were exchanged and a duel must have seemed likely. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed and, your correspondent reported, "as the French phrase is, the affair had no result". Yours faithfully, FRANK GRIFFITH DAWSON, 3 Elusley Avenue, Cambridge, January 19.

Mrs Manser's suggestion, however, is not without relevance to the history of the house: at the turn of the century it was used as a lunatic asylum!

The unsplendid beauty of Chiswick House charms everyone. Some years ago it was rented by the Royal Family as a "nursery residence" for the Dukes of Clarence and York, then convalescing. Their doctor was a local character named Lawrence, who one day saw them playing boisterously in the grounds. Their game stopped promptly at his approach, and the younger boy, destined to become George V, entreated him, "Oh Doctor, please say we are not well enough to travel so that we can stay in this lovely place, and not go to Sandringham".

Later, in 1928, when Chiswick House was under threat of demolition, King George V was among those who donated to save the house and grounds. Yours faithfully, JOHN MEIN, Latimer House, Church Street, W4, January 21.

From Mr Roy Hay
Sir, I was very interested in Mrs Manser's letter about the appropriate style of furniture for Chiswick House.

I owned a farmhouse, built in 1580, from 1953 until 1976. It was furnished with 20th-century beds, chairs, wardrobes, oak chests, dressing tables, tables, a settee, a sideboard, Parker Knoll chairs, with one or two antique items, mainly "Chinese", brought home by my late wife's parents.

It all looked very nice, we thought. If I had conceived it my duty to fill the house with genuine antiques or reproductions of same, what period should I have chosen? 1580 to 1680, 1680 to 1780, 1780 to 1880 or 1880 to 1953?

Is one to assume that successive owners of a house never brought in new furniture over the years or never changed the garden?

Yours faithfully, ROY HAY, Bulls Cross Cottage, 3 Bulls Cross, Enfield, Middlesex, January 20.

From Mr N. A. Oppenheim
Sir, The debate concerning the appropriateness or otherwise of equipping Chiswick House with reproduction furniture appears to have overlooked the fact that the building is itself a reproduction of one of Palladio's designs.

Yours sincerely, NICHOLAS A. OPPENHEIM, 61 Park Road, Chiswick, W4, January 22.

in these cases is that which has guided all his predecessors. Without such a criterion a Home Secretary would rapidly be compelled to refer any case which attracted significant public attention, regardless of its merits. This would bring the whole system into disrepute.

On the second point, although Mr Kee draws a distinction between consideration of matters by the court of trial and the Court of Appeal, the fact remains that the Balcombe Street confessions were examined in detail by the Court of Appeal. The court concluded that there had been "a cunning and skilful attempt to deceive the court by putting forward false evidence".

As for the second piece of "new" evidence — scientific assessments of the Caterham and Guildford bombings — these simply focused on similarities between the two offences; they did not purport to prove that the offences were necessarily committed by the same people.

Yours sincerely, DAVID MELLOR, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, SW1, January 22.

Benefit for disabled

From Mrs Barbara Lyndon Skeggs
Sir, John Major's letter (January 7) concerning improvements to benefits for severely disabled people living in the community is most welcome. These people and their carers deserve every possible help. However, does he realize there are people living in long-stay hospitals with every help at hand, receiving mobility allowances which in the main they cannot use?

My authority holds over £600,000 on behalf of patients unable to use their allowances and this money accumulates yearly, in high-interest deposit accounts, waiting to be handed in due course to next of kin. Is this good use of public money — waiting to be given to people for whom it was

they contain a great number of passages which extol women, make it obligatory to men to respect and honour them, and spell out their rights clearly.

Not even Mr Howard can deny the great contributions which Islam has made to Western society in the past, which indeed it continues to do today. It has always preached peace and harmony and stands in sharp contrast to its aggressive attitude, which in my eyes forms a very real threat to the inter-cultural and inter-religious respect and understanding that have only just begun to build up.

Yours faithfully, S. G. U. SYEDAIN (Trustee, Wembley Mosque and Islamic Centre), The Pillars, 4 Davenham Avenue, Northwood, Middlesex, January 20.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 24 1826

Six years before the "curious narrative" below appeared in *The Globe and Emerald*, Edmund Keen (1787-1833) undertook an immensely successful tour of North America. In the intervening years, however, he had been cited as correspondent in a divorce case, as a result of which his wife left him and he was violently attacked by the public, both at home and abroad. The role of Richard III was one of those which had helped to establish his reputation as a great Shakespeare tragedian.

KEAN IN BOSTON

The following curious narrative is taken from a New York paper, dated Dec. 31, entitled *The Globe and Emerald*. From the rhodomontade style in which it is written, it is probably from Keen's own pen or dictation. Though it is impossible not to despise the mixture of meanness and bombast which distinguish this theatrical worthy, yet the conduct of the Bostonians is utterly indefensible. His behaviour towards them on his former visit, and his canting letter on his last arrival, deserved some expressions of contempt; but none but fanatics and ruffians would have persecuted him to the risk of his life.

It is not probably known to our readers that Mr. Keen went to Boston at the suggestion of a gentleman of that city, who possesses influence and wealth, and at the solicitation of the managers of the Boston theatre. . . . Immediately after his arrival, the reader is aware that he published an address to the Boston people, which, if it is not remarkable for language too submissive and complimentary, is not remarkable for anything else. Confident that this address would propitiate the good-will, if not the affections, of his former adversaries, he appeared before the audience in citizen's clothes on the evening of Wednesday last. But it was then, ferocity unparalleled in the history of civilization commenced the yell of destruction. Missiles, brass balls, potatoes, bottles containing asafetida, apples, negro gingerbread, were thrown in showers on the stage. Mr. Keen now retired, and after the lapse of about five minutes, Mr. Kiner appeared with a placard, and stated that Mr. Keen wished to apologize, but not at the risk of his life. A silence ensued, and Mr. Keen again appeared, when missiles were thrown in redoubled abundance, and with increased malevolence, and the victim finding that his life was really in jeopardy, withdrew, and the managers agreed that it would be madness in him to appear again on the stage. He retired into his dressing-room, and Mr. Kiner came forward with a placard, intimating that Mr. Keen declined to encounter again the deadly hostility manifested towards him, and asking if the play should proceed with Mr. Finn as the substitute in the part of Richard. A partial cessation of the tumult induced the managers to attempt to proceed with the performance, but at the end of the first act, finding that the disturbance still continued, and that a determination appeared to exist in a part of the audience, not to be satisfied whilst there was a hope of destroying Keen if he continued in the house, the play was discontinued at the desire of the most respectable portion of the audience, and Mr. Keen was hurried by his friends from his dressing-room to a house contiguous to the theatre, belonging to one of the performers. . . .

The mayor was then sent for, who refused to attend, saying that the theatre was a place of public amusement, and as the managers made the bed, so they must lie on it. . . . By applying ladders to the windows, and forcing other entrances, thousands had by this time succeeded in storming the house and in rushing into the interior of the theatre; they immediately commenced the work of desolation. Loud yells were now made for Keen! Keen! and while the victim was in his retirement, he must have heard such expressions as the following from the mob: — "Pick him out!" — "There he is!" when they had followed some person whom they had mistaken for their object. . . . The inhuman monsters! We repeat, can the history of persecution, can Gothic annals, can African barbarity furnish an instance of such cruelty? . . .

From the inside

From Mr F. G. Dawson
Sir, Proposed legislative changes providing increased prison sentences for insider dealers, as reported in *The Times* today (January 19), contrast sharply with earlier methods of dealing with this venerable problem.

On September 30, 1826, *The Times* reported that the agent bank for the Chilean Government bond issue contracted in 1822 had announced that the dividend payment due October 1 would not be paid. Chilean bond quotations dropped abruptly.

As your Money Market correspondent reported, when the announcement was made a "fracas" erupted on the floor of the Stock Exchange. A broker (who was also a member of Parliament) was accused by a colleague of selling a large block of Chilean bonds prior to the announcement of the default when he must have known from his connections with the agent bank that they were valueless.

The charge was denied "in language the most direct and the least ceremonious". Cards were exchanged and a duel must have seemed likely. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed and, your correspondent reported, "as the French phrase is, the affair had no result". Yours faithfully, FRANK GRIFFITH DAWSON, 3 Elusley Avenue, Cambridge, January 19.

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SOCIAL
NEWS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, will attend receptions at St James's Palace on March 18 for young people for have reached the gold standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The Queen will attend a reception at the Royal Society for the establishment of the Royal Fellowship Programme for China on March 19.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Paul Nicholas Brandt and Mr Leonard H.C. Lait to be circuit judges on the South Eastern Circuit.

The Welsh Office has announced the following appointments: Mr Clifford Stevens to be Director of the Welsh Office Industry Department on promotion to Under Secretary. He succeeds Mr John Craig, who transfers as Under Secretary to become Principal Finance Officer, Welsh Office, after the transfer of Mr Melvyn Jeremiah to General Manager, Disarmament Services, Department of Health and Social Security in London.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Neil Diamond, 42; Lord Duncan-Sandys, CH, 78; Mr Bamber Gascoigne, 52; Admiral Sir Andrew Lewis, 69; Dr Desmond Morris, 59; Earl Spencer, 63; Air Commodore Sir Archie Winkill, 70.

TOMORROW: The Rev Professor G.W. Anderson, 74; Mr Raymond Baxter, 65; Viscount Blakenham, 49; Russell Bradburn, 60; Admiral Sir David Clutterbuck, 74; Miss Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies, 96; Lord Iliffe, 79; Sir John Moore, 91; Lord Morris of Gresham, 89; Sir John Mucker, 81; Mr David Nicholas, 57; Mr Justice Nicholls, 54; Sir Rowland Smith, 99; Professor Edward Ullendorff, 67; Viscount Watkinson, CH, 77; Admiral Sir Peter White, 68.

Luncheon

Plumbers' Company: Mr G.J.W. Marsh, Master of the Plumbers' Company, assisted by Mr Leon Hill, Upper Warden, presided at a luncheon held at Ironmongers' Hall yesterday. The Masters of the Painter Stainers, the Masons, the Tyllers and Bricklayers and the Plasterers' Companies were among those present.

Service luncheon

Fleet Air Arm: Admiral Sir Derek Empson was the principal guest at a luncheon held yesterday by officers of the 48th Pilot's Course (1943) Fleet Air Arm at the Mayfair Hotel. Among those present were: Sir Stanley Crisp, Captain K.A. Legard, RN, Mr W. Joseph Hanke, Lieutenant Commander L. Budd, MR, Mr R. Ball, Mr A. Budd, MR, Mr L. Carter, Mr R. Fitter, Mr G. Fyfe and Mr L. Jones.

Dinner

Kebble College: Mr C.J.E. Ball, Warden of Kebble College, Oxford, was in the chair at the Kebble London dinner held at the Brewery, Chiswell Street, last night. The guests included the presidents of the middle and junior common rooms.

Meeting

International Science Policy Foundation: Mr John Gratwick, Chairman of the International Science Policy Foundation, presented the foundation's medal to Dr Joseph Needham at a ceremony held at Birkbeck College last night. Professor George Overend, Master of Birkbeck College, and Dr Maurice Goldsmith, director of the foundation, also spoke. The Chinese Ambassador was among those present.

Interpreting divine acts

Aids and the judgement of God

Much of the Old Testament asserts that natural disasters, such as floods or earthquakes, are instances of divine correction. Does the Old Testament therefore imply that Aids is the judgement of God on human sin?

Divine acts recorded in the Old Testament were often specific, like Eliphaz's destruction by fire of the soldiers who came to arrest him (2 Kings 1:12). Indeed a predominant theme is the prosperity of the righteous and ultimate frustration of the wicked, as in Psalm 112.

In looking back to the memory of the dramatic crossing of the Red Sea, such divine intervention was remembered as the foundation of the Jewish nation. Our forebears knew none of our reticence in their interpretation of events.

Yet even they could see that this view is not without its difficulties. The book of Job is the most obvious refutation among many others. At the outset of the story the dispute between Job and his wife (Job 2:9-10) sets the scene, which the rest of the story elaborates.

To the difficulty of suffering, no simple answers are permitted, and it is unlikely that one will be found. "Although the fig tree does not burgeon, the vines bear no fruit... yet I will exult in the Lord, and rejoice in the God of my deliverance" (Habakkuk 3:17-18) is a cry of both despair of meaning, and of grim determination like Job's.

In the New Testament, however, the first, simpler view seems to persist in spite of Job's warnings against it. When Jesus heals the paralytic who

was lowered through the roof (Mark 2:1-12), he says first, "Your sins are forgiven". The unspoken assumption seems to be that the sufferer's state is divinely inflicted.

In the story the cure and forgiveness of sins are two sides of the same coin. The claim that Jesus can cure such disease is linked with his power to change the interpretation of moral status. Before, the sinner was to be condemned; now he is welcomed as whole. The ambiguity of the sufferer's state is everywhere, for when Jesus's power heals the woman with an issue of blood, who simply touches the seam of his robe, he seems to commend her audacity in refusing to accept her condition (Mark 5:34).

"Who sinned, this man or his parents?" ask Jesus' followers about a man born blind. "He was born blind so that God's power might be displayed in curing him," replies Jesus (John 9:2-3). We have come round to the exactly opposite point of view: suffering is no longer punishment, but a challenge to be overcome.

In all these cases the ancients were faced primarily with problems of interpretation. Indeed that surely was what prophecy was all about. The conviction that this or that was the hand of God heightened their sense of moral values, in spite of frequent apparent contradictions. It is impossible to resolve logical contradictions. Different views expressed by Jesus just mentioned. Yet the New Testament bristles with the conviction that here is new wine indeed.

For modern man the difficulty of interpretation is compounded by increased understanding of the sci-

entific explanation of events, and especially of disease such as Aids, although we often still do not know their precise origins. This means that it is difficult to draw from events moral implications which do not seem at odds with what we know from science.

Our forebears were able to illustrate their growing moral sense by appealing to the mystery of suffering and disease in much the same way as Orwell could use the unknown future (1984) to illustrate our perception of the present. The pejorative term "God of the Gaps" fittingly expresses our difficulty: it is no longer possible to explain plausibly what we still do not know by appealing to assumptions which have been progressively replaced by science in so many areas of experience.

Despite their lack of modern knowledge it is clear that the biblical writers were well aware of contradictions. Their lack of science perhaps led them to be less obsessive about them. From the obvious pitfalls we see in any logical analysis of biblical explanations of suffering, we must allow that they gave themselves considerable liberty. It is in this, their non-deterministic approach to interpretation, that their genius lay.

This same freedom is one that we claim too, quite unselfconsciously. In comforting a child in pain, we nonetheless spare no effort in driving home the lesson to be learned if the burn was a consequence of playing with fire. If on another occasion the burn is the consequence of trying to save someone else from worse, we commend him without worrying

about consistency. We hope to help him to the right values despite the apparent contradictions.

In the face of science (and perhaps of oppressive bureaucracy too) we should not forget that this is the one dimension over which individually we still have control. The state is obliged to recognize that Aids exists simply because of what it will cost the National Health Service. We have, in fact, so institutionalized our response to the problem that we seem to have abrogated our right to make a moral judgement. This is not the case, and that very expense may soon force us to realize it.

If we are to escape from the gap to which God and our moral sense seem fast to be consigned, it can only be by rediscovering our individual capacity to make moral assessments. It is the loss of that dimension more than anything else which saps our humanity. As in New Testament times this will only come about by the individual having the audacity to fight back.

The individual, indeed, does not need anyone else's backing to see that most Aids victims will be the results of their own irresponsibility, but to invoke the judgement of God as a back-up is to allow himself to be blinded to the many other luckless ones, like haemophiliacs, who have caught the disease through no fault of their own. And in the end, of course, all these sufferers will need our compassion.

Dr Peter Mitchell

Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.A. Cresswell and Miss E.A. Bartlett. The engagement is announced between Richard Alexander, son of Mr Peter Cresswell, of Maidstone, Kent, and Mrs Alan Dunn, of Bickley, Kent, and step-daughter of Mr Peter Cresswell, and Mr Alan Dunn, and Emma Jane, younger daughter of the Bishop of Tonbridge and Mrs David Bartlett, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

Dr N.N. Amso and Miss J.L. Scott. The engagement is announced between Dr N.N. Amso, of Baghdad, Iraq, and Jacqueline Louise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Scott, of Geelong, Victoria, Australia.

Mr D.P. Armstrong and Miss E.A. Benson. The engagement is announced between Dean Paul, only son of Mr and Mrs P.B. Armstrong, of Walsley, Kent, and Rosemary Anne, second daughter of Mr and Mrs A.N. Benson, of Wilmshurst, Cheshire.

Mr S. Beney and Miss A.J.R.McQ. Hewitt. The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs D.E. Beney, of West Wickham, Kent, and Amanda, daughter of Mr M.C.P. Hewitt, of Wimborne, Dorset, and Mrs S.J.R. Morris, of Bournemouth.

Mr J.H.F. Bennett and Miss V.G. Yeckes. The engagement is announced between Jeremy, younger son of Mr and Mrs W.F.F. Bennett, of Frant, Sussex, and Victoria, daughter of the late Mr H. Yeckes, of New York City, and Mrs W.H. Welling, of the Hague.

Mr A.P. Bewick and Miss P.G. Dickinson. The engagement is announced between Adrian Bewick, RIBA, son of Colonel and Mrs G. Bewick, of West Park, Leeds, and Penelope Dickinson, RIBA, elder daughter of Captain and Mrs T.G. Dickinson, of Barford, Warwickshire.

Mr W. Brown and Mrs E.A.H. Manion. The engagement is announced between William Brown, husband of the late Jean Brown, and son of Mr and Mrs J.L. Brown, of Blundeston, Suffolk, and step-daughter of Colonel and Mrs G.S.H. Dicker, of Strumpshaw, Norfolk.

Mr S. Clarke and Miss K.H. Ridley. The engagement is announced between Steven, youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs William Maurice Clarke, of Parkstone, Dorset, and Katharine Henrietta, younger daughter of Mr Simon Ridley, of Wittersham, Kent, and Mrs Mary Ridley, of Seaford, Sussex.

Mr D. Calshaw and Miss F.A. Hoare. The engagement is announced between Damian, son of Mr and Mrs Frank Calshaw, of Mawdesley and Faith, daughter of Mr and Mrs Rodney Hoare, of Salisbury.

Mr J. Culver and Miss J.J. Morgan. The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.G. Culver, of Uxbridge, Middlesex, and Joanna Jane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs H.L. Morgan, of Wisborough Green, West Sussex.

Mr J.D. Edwards and Miss A.O. Williams. The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr Jack Edwards, of Woodbridge, and Mrs Joy Edwards, of Lee-on-Solent, and Anne, daughter of Mr Gerald Williams, of Ithaca Abbas.

Mr D.R. Gardiner and Miss J.C. Oldham. The engagement is announced between David, third son of Mr and Mrs Russell Gardiner, of Calderdale, Victoria, Australia, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Oldham, of Ascot, Berkshire.

Mr M. Greenfield and Miss J.A. Douglas. The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs R. Greenfield, of Horncastle, Lincolnshire, and Angela Mary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D.L. Douglas, of Carlisle, Scotland.

Mr K.M. Greig and Miss S.B. Taylor. The engagement is announced between Kenneth, son of Mr and Mrs Walter Greig, Edinburgh, and Josephine, daughter of Mrs Judy Taylor, Steyning, West Sussex.

Mr D.C. Lawrence and Miss L.M. Bell. The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs C.A. Lawrence, of Kingsbridge, Devon, and Ingrid, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M.D.E. Bell, of Cleaton, Tyne and Wear.

Mr R.J. Mitchell and Miss K.P. Parker. The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Dr and Mrs John Mitchell, of Yeovil, and Katie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Parker, of Tintinhull, Yeovil, Somerset.

Mr A. McIver and Miss S.E.M. Worthington. The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs A. McIver, and Sally, only daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Worthington, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Mr G.W.H. Miesing and Miss L.M. Jupp. The engagement is announced between George, son of Mr and Mrs G.W. Miesing, of Hannover, Federal Republic of Germany, and Lindsey, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D.J. Jupp, of Woldingham, Surrey.

Mr J.F.A. Renton and Miss T.F. Cantley. The engagement is announced between Anthony, only son of Mr and Mrs A.J. Renton, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.M. Cantley, of Taunton, Somerset.

Mr J.A.D. Thorber and Miss J. Carl. The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs J.C.P. Thorber, of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, and Jacqueline, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R.C. Carl, of Sale, Cheshire.

OBITUARY

PROF. V. G. LEVICH

Soviet scientist who won his freedom

Professor Venyamin (Benjamin) Levich, physical chemist, died on January 19 at the age of 69.

His international reputation rested on his establishing physico-chemical hydrodynamics as a recognized scientific discipline. Latterly, however, he came to prominence for his lengthy struggle with the Soviet authorities to emigrate.

Venyamin Grigorievich Levich was born on March 30, 1917, at Kharkov. He graduated from the university there in 1937, and then went to the Lenin State Pedagogical Institute in Moscow.

He got his doctorate in 1943, for research on the processes occurring in electrolytic cells. This led him to consider the phenomenon of concentration polarization, and the development of the rotating-disc electrode as a research tool.

He was also involved in atomic energy research. But, aware of the difficulties this might later cause him, he withdrew from all work which could carry a security classification.

His first book, *Static Physics*, was published in 1950. His second, *Physico-Chemical Hydrodynamics* (1952), is widely acclaimed as a masterpiece. Translated into English in 1959, it is a skillful bringing together of streams of science, and established the subject in its own right.

His *magnum opus* is a four-volume treatise on theoretical physics. For this he did extensive research on gas-phase collision reactions, the photo-emission of electrons in solutions, and the quantum mechanics of electron transfer between ions.

In 1963 he was given the new chair of chemical mechanics at the Moscow State University. Further advancement would have come his way had he not, in 1972, after long consultation with his wife, his sons and his conscience, asked to emigrate to Israel.

His chair was at once abolished on the grounds that he was no longer fit to instruct

the young, and his status was reduced to that of a scientific worker.

His colleagues, almost without exception, found reasons to distance themselves from him. Editors declined to publish his works. His frequently-cited name was laboriously excised from all copies of an American publication distributed in the USSR.

Meanwhile he was assured that he would never be allowed to emigrate because of his knowledge of state secrets.

Scientists in the West protested. After much vacillation, an unwritten agreement was reached: if the protests stopped, his younger son would be returned from the Arctic military camp to which he had been illegally transported, both sons and their wives would be allowed to emigrate, and Levich and his wife, Tanya, would follow them one year later.

All went as agreed. However, when the time came for him and Tanya to leave, the existence of the agreement was blandly denied.

British scientists reacted by organizing an international conference on physico-chemical hydrodynamics at Oxford in the summer of 1977, dedicating it to Levich. A second conference was held at Washington DC the following year. Three weeks later, the Levichs were in Vienna.

From there they went to Israel, where Tel Aviv University had been keeping a chair ready for the most distinguished Soviet scientist ever to settle in this ethnic home.

He was offered many other posts, and in 1979 he accepted the Albert Einstein chair of chemical physics at New York City College, on terms which allowed him to travel often to Tel Aviv. This post he held at the time of his death.

Levich adjusted well to Western ways. But his wife had extensive heart surgery soon after their arrival in America, and never fully recovered. Her death, in 1984, affected him deeply; and, although it permitted him greater freedom to travel, he did so more for distraction than enjoyment.

PROFESSOR JULIAN BROWN

Professor Julian Brown, FBA, Professor of Palaeography at London University from 1961 to 1984, died on January 19. He was 66.

Thomas Julian Brown was born on February 24, 1923. From Westminster School he went to Christ Church, Oxford, in 1941.

The following year he joined the Border Regiment and served for the rest of the war, mainly at the Infantry Heavy Weapons School. Returning to Oxford after the war he graduated in Greats in 1948.

From 1950, until he got his chair at London in 1961, he was an assistant keeper of manuscripts at the British Museum.

Brown's abilities were demonstrated in a 1960 volume of commentary accompanying the magnificent facsimile of the *Lindisfarne Gospels*, in which he collaborated with several other scholars. This was followed by other studies of Northumbrian books: the *Stonbury Gospels* (for the Roxburghe Club) in 1969, the *Durham Ritual* in the same year, and the *Durham Gospels* (with D. Verdy and E. Coatsworth) in 1980.

In all of these he deploys his

palaeographical, codicological and art-historical skills, and they will be his enduring monument.

The increasing administrative burdens that fell on university teachers in the 1980s (impatience with which hastened his early retirement) was responsible for his 1977 Lyell Lectures on the insular system of scripts not being published in 1980. Only parts have appeared in *Die Iron und Europa in frühen Mittelalter* (1982) and *Irland und Europa* (1984).

It is also to be regretted that he did not publish the fruits of his thinking on the knotty problem of the nomenclature of mediaeval scripts. There is good reason to hope that some of these may yet appear.

A writer of poetry, a sensitive man with a touch of melancholy in his make-up, Julian Brown was as good a listener as he was a talker. As the holder of the country's only established chair of palaeography he was, in a way, the national representative of his subject.

He was also an active member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

He was twice married, and is survived by his widow and two daughters of the first marriage.

SIR GRAEME FINLAY, BT

Sir Graeme Finlay, BT, barrister and Conservative MP for Epping from 1951 to 1964, died on January 21. He was 69.

Graeme Bell Finlay was born on October 29, 1917. He was educated at Marlborough and University College London.

His studies were interrupted by the war, during which, among other things, he was martial law officer of the Upper Sid Force during the Hurr rebellion of 1943 on the North West Frontier.

After the war he was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn, where he was for a time a pupil of Quintin Hogg (now Lord Silsby). He never took Silk.

In 1950 he had the thankless task of standing against Ancurin Bevan at Ebbw Vale.

MR J. L. N. O'LOUGHLIN

Mr J. L. N. O'Loughlin, who died on January 2, aged 79, made valuable contributions to Old and Mediaeval English studies.

He had worked on *The New English Dictionary* and, in 1937, published, with Kenneth Muir, *The Voyage to Ithaca*, a biographical study of Shakespeare based on analysis of his imagery.

During the war he served with the Ministry of Information.

A study of East Anglian place names (1964) drew plausible connections between *Beowulf* and the Sutton Hoo ship burial.

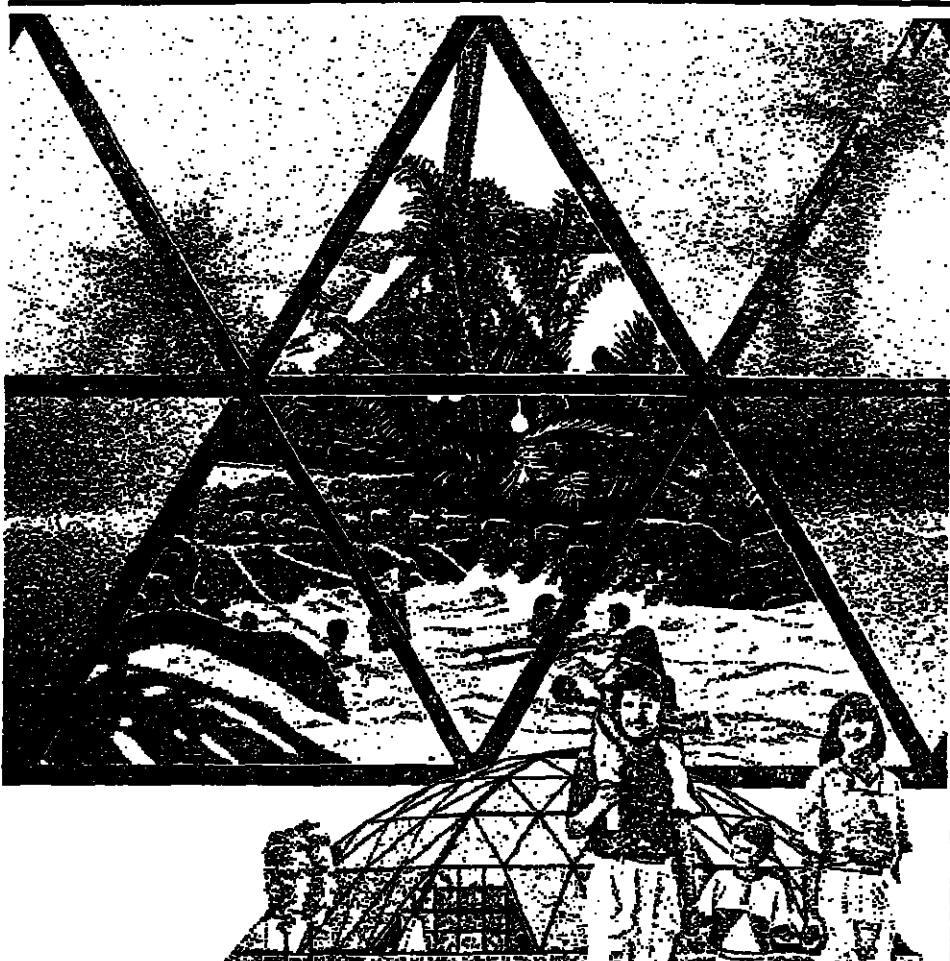
BISHOP GEOFFREY TIARKS

Mr Roger A. B. West writes:

In your obituary of Bishop Tiarks (January 15) you referred to his "mordant wit" and "pastoral concern". He showed both these qualities to me when he taught at "Bishops" in South Africa 40 years ago.

As a spastic boy unable to write, he put me on a typewriter at the back of his scripture class.

He said he would "soon have the barnacles off my bottom". And he did. I am deeply indebted to him.



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Tebbit sues paper for libel

By Nicholas Wood
Political Reporter

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Conservative Party chairman, with the full support of the Prime Minister, yesterday took the unprecedented step of issuing a writ for libel against *The Guardian*.

The writ, which names Mr Hugo Young, the paper's political commentator, Mr Peter Preston, the editor, and *The Guardian*, arises out of an article written by Mr Young on January 6 headlined: "A fate worse than Thatcherism".

In it, Mr Young wrote that Mr Tebbit had said: "Nobody with a conscience votes Conservative".

The writ, which seeks unspecified damages and a statement in open court by the newspaper, will be served next week when the newspaper has given the name and address of its solicitors. Mr Tebbit has engaged Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, widely acknowledged as the country's leading libel lawyer, to act for him.

Mrs Thatcher has actively encouraged her party chairman to issue the writ.

Leading Conservatives interpreted this as evidence of Mrs Thatcher's determination to scotch the recent spate of stories suggesting that she had fallen out badly with her party chairman. Senior Cabinet ministers were also consulted before the party chairman issued his writ.

It was made clear yesterday that although Mr Tebbit's writ applies to the whole of Mr Young's lengthy discourse on the Tory chairman, it is the quote at the end that has given the most offence and triggered the first such action between one of Mrs Thatcher's ministers and the media.

It claimed that Mrs Thatcher viewed him as a person "not to be trusted." Yesterday, Mr Preston said he could not comment until he received Mr Tebbit's writ. So far, he had only had the letter from Carter-Ruck and Partners asking for details of *The Guardian*'s solicitors.

One man and his priceless 400-pram collection



Mr Jack Hampshire pictured yesterday with some of the 400 baby carriages in his collection, which includes examples from the eighteenth century (Photograph: Graham Wood)

A retired research scientist yesterday offered his priceless collection of over 400 prams to the nation after a local council reluctantly rejected it.

Mr Jack Hampshire, aged 72, of Biddenden, Kent, said that the collection includes baby carriages which date from the 1790s to the 1960s and it contains unique and valuable examples of the craft.

The offer, which Maidstone Borough Council had to turn down due to lack of space, comes with two conditions: that the collection must be housed within reasonable distance of Kent, to allow Mr Hampshire to visit it easily, and that there is a guarantee that it will not get sold off piece by piece.

Abductions threaten election eve Bonn-US rift

From John England
Bonn

Chancellor Kohl's hostage crisis on the eve of the German federal election worsened yesterday when two more West Germans were reported to have been kidnapped in Beirut.

Herr Kohl told a final press conference in Bonn before the poll tomorrow that he could not confirm that the men had been abducted.

The reports were another shock for Bonn after the kidnapping of Dr Rudolf Cordes, a businessman, aged 53, and Herr Alfred Schmidt, aged 47, an electrical engineer. The Government's crisis

staff is believed to have had its first contact with the group holding Dr Cordes, the manager of the Hoechst chemical company in Beirut, who was abducted a week ago. Bonn has clamped a strict news blackout on the Cordes case, and Herr Kohl asked reporters for their understanding.

The kidnapping of Dr Cordes still threatens to cause a rift between Bonn and Washington. His captors are demanding the release of suspected Lebanese terrorist, Mr Muhammad Ali Hamadi, who is under arrest in West Germany, in return for his freedom.

The Americans have asked Bonn to extradite Mr Hamadi to stand trial for the hijacking of a TWA airliner in June 1985 and the murder of a US Navy diver. The West German Government is delaying a decision on their request to win time in dealing with Dr Cordes' kidnappers.

Mr Hamadi could be tried in West Germany on explosives and forgery charges, officials said. A trial here would win time in which the freedom of the hostages could be negotiated.

"Naturally a trial here is possible. The man was arrested here because he was carrying explosives," a high-ranking Bonn official said.

Fleeing voters, page 6
German view, page 16

two kidnap victims by using its own contacts. Despite the crisis, Herr Kohl, whose coalition parties are given a clear election victory with nearly 54 per cent by the latest opinion poll, appeared relaxed and confident as he spoke to reporters.

He said Bonn's relations with the Soviet Union were also satisfactory. This was confirmed by the forthcoming visit to West Germany by Mr Alexei Antonov, the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister.

He pointed to economic growth, price stability and the improving job market as proof of the success of Bonn's policies.

One senior police authority member who asked not to be named, said yesterday: "Enough is enough. Things have reached the stage where Anderton either toes the line or makes way for someone prepared to give his job their full commitment."

"The chief constable is a maverick. We can no longer control. After his speech on Aids which outraged so many people, he gave our chairman a solemn undertaking that he would watch his words in future."

"Then what does he do? Tells the world he is a prophet and an instrument of God?"

Thatcher and Hurd support Anderton

Continued from page 1

yesterday that unless Mr Anderton gives a verbal undertaking that he will stop making controversial public statements, they will demand his immediate resignation or dismissal for "bringing the police into disrepute".

It was even emphasized yesterday that to end what the authority considers an intolerable stalemate, it will argue that Greater Manchester's mounting crime and low detection rates show Mr Anderton to be an ineffective head of England's largest provincial police force.

During Thursday's meeting between Mr Anderton and the two Home Office officials, Sir Lawrence Byford, Chief Inspector of Constabulary, and Mr Michael Partridge, deputy secretary and head of the police department, there was no ultimatum given.

Privately, authority members are concerned that even if he declines to give a verbal undertaking, Home Office officials will hesitate formally to dismiss Mr Anderton, who this year is president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, because of the inevitable furore which would result in election year. In that case they will appeal direct to Mr Hurd.

Already they have discreetly canvassed MPs who have pledged their support.

One senior police authority member who asked not to be named, said yesterday: "Enough is enough. Things have reached the stage where Anderton either toes the line or makes way for someone prepared to give his job their full commitment."

"The chief constable is a maverick. We can no longer control. After his speech on Aids which outraged so many people, he gave our chairman a solemn undertaking that he would watch his words in future."

"Then what does he do? Tells the world he is a prophet and an instrument of God?"

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Solution to Puzzle No 17,256

Across: 1. The relative, in short, de-fined in argument (6). 2. Stole various notes (but not F) (8). 3. Strategically excel, in particular? No, not (10). 4. Crust of bread - one of a pair water has to cool (4). 5. Male academic is getting married in pursuit of pleasure (8). 6. Add 8 to revised price for prescription (6). 7. Some tribal islanders found here (4). 8. It happens to be an anti-climax nobody expresses (3-5). 9. Motorway sections heading east of Italian city (8). 10. Preserve priest suffering acute lack (4). 11. Where snob went to work, finally (2,4). 12. Sort that could be elegant if accepted (8). 13. Leaves supporter in front of ship (4). 14. A female relative briefly frightens others (5-5).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,261

Across: 1. The relative, in short, de-fined in argument (6). 2. Stole various notes (but not F) (8). 3. Strategically excel, in particular? No, not (10). 4. Crust of bread - one of a pair water has to cool (4). 5. Male academic is getting married in pursuit of pleasure (8). 6. Add 8 to revised price for prescription (6). 7. Some tribal islanders found here (4). 8. It happens to be an anti-climax nobody expresses (3-5). 9. Motorway sections heading east of Italian city (8). 10. Preserve priest suffering acute lack (4). 11. Where snob went to work, finally (2,4). 12. Sort that could be elegant if accepted (8). 13. Leaves supporter in front of ship (4). 14. A female relative briefly frightens others (5-5).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,262

A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mr A. Cathcart, Hillside Drive, Christchurch, Dorset; Mrs H. Sheriff, The Firs, Wellington Road, Edgubaston, Birmingham; Rev M. J. Ottaway, Bishopstone Rd, Seaford, E Sussex; Mr J. A. Spencer, Southfield, Harcourt Hill, Oxford; Mrs T. Stewart, Rig Street, Aberlady, E Lothian.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Today's events

New exhibitions

Exhibition by Ian Fraser, Phoenix Gallery, Lavenham, Suffolk, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 6 (ends Feb 23).

Sculptures by Jim Harold, paintings by Philip Bird, South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, Mon to Fri 9 to 12.30, 1.30 to 5.7, to 10, Sat 1 to 4 and 7 to 10, Sun 1 to 4 (ends Mar 1).

Paintings, drawings and prints by Nan Youngman, Kettle's Yard Gallery, Centre St, Cambridge, Tues to Sat 12.30 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30, Thurs 2 to 7 (ends March 1).

Royal Photographic Society international print exhibition: RPS National Centre of Photography, The Octagon, Milton Street, Bath, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends Feb 21).

Music

May the King Live... by the BBC Welsh Symphony and Chorus; St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff, 7.30.

Scottish National Orchestra, conducted by Bryden Thomas, with pianist David Wilde; City Hall, Glasgow, 7.30.

Allegri String Quartet: The Music Hall, The Square, Shrewsbury, 8.15.

A Flame in Your Heart, a musical reading by Andrew Greig and Kathleen Jamies; Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, 7.30.

Concert by the Durham Choral Society, Durham Cathedral, 7.30.

Winter Fireworks in York: Clifford's Tower, York city centre, 7.30.

Tomorrow's events

Royal engagements

The Princess of Wales, President of the Royal Academy of Music, attends the Arthur Rubinstein memorial concert in aid of the academy's appeal and the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies, Oxford, at the Royal Festival Hall, 7.25.

New exhibitions

Portrait of the artist: Sir Muirhead Bone (1876-1953); Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Feb 9).

Music

Rugby School Orchestra and Chorus: *Carmine Burana* by Carl Orff, Temple Speech Room, Rugby School, Rugby, 7.30.

Philharmonia of Bristol; the Town Hall, Cheltenham, 7.30.

The London Mozart Players: The Hexagon, Queen's Walk, Reading, 7.30.

Heretics and Heroines: an informal concert for children... by the Halle Orchestra; Free Trade Hall, Manchester, 3.

Jocelyn Abbott performs Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor with the Unilever Orchestra; The Corn Exchange, Saffron Walden, Essex, 8.

The Sunday coffee concert: 'Estampie': a pot-pouri of renaissance music; the Guildhall, York, 2.30.

Roads

London and the South-east: A40 (M4) Severn congestion as Marylebone flyover closed, diversions via Paddington slip roads. The Midlands: M5: One lane southbound between junctions 5 and 6 (Droitwich/A449), 19.1-5.5. London: A456: Bypass construction W of Bowdley.

Wales and the West: M5: Outside lane closed southbound between junction 21 (Weston-super-Mare) and junction 22 (Burnham-on-Sea). A39: Roadworks at Walton between Glastonbury and Bridgwater. Somerset: M4 South Gloucester: Lane closures between junctions 24 and 29 (Newport/Cardiff).

The North: Lane closures between junctions 31 and 33 (Worksworth/Rotherham). M63 Greater Manchester: Road work reduced at Barton Bridge. A167: Two-way traffic on southbound carriageway S of Newton Aycliffe, County Durham.

Scotland: M8 Strathclyde: Lane closures between junction 25 (Cardonald) and junction 26 (Hillingdon) with diversions as westbound slip road from Clyde Tunnel and eastbound from Hillingdon closed. A702: Delays between Morrison St and West Approach Rd. A73: One lane only on Station Rd and Highland Rd, Carlisle, Lanarkshire.

Anniversaries

TODAY

Births: Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, 1740-86, Berlin, 1712; Pierre de Beaumarchais, dramatist, Paris, 1732; Charles James Fox, statesman, London, 1749; Sir Edwin Chadwick, social reformer, Manchester, 1810.

Deaths: Lord Randolph Churchill, statesman, London, 1895; Amadeo Modigliani, painter, Paris, 1920; Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister, 1940-45, 1951-55, London, 1965.

TOMORROW

Births: Saint Edmund Campion, Jesuit martyr, London, 1540; Robert Boyle, physicist, Lismore Castle, Munster, 1627; Robert Burns, poet, Alloway, Ayrshire, 1759; Somerset Maugham, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1874; Virginia Woolf, writer, London, 1882; Wilhelm Furtwangler, conductor, Berlin, 1886.

Deaths: Robert Barton, scholar, Oxford, 1640; Dorothy Wordsworth, writer, Grasmere, 1855.

President Obote of Uganda was deposed by General Idi Amin, 1971.

OU broadcasts

Leaflets listing BBC Open University broadcasts 1987 for non-specialist audiences are available in the following subject areas:

Art, architecture and design; media studies; management courses; public affairs and history; music; literature; educational studies; psychology; society and community; technology; science; and mathematics and computing.

Art, architecture and design: media studies management courses: public affairs and history: music: literature: educational studies: psychology: society and community: technology: science: and mathematics and computing.

Art, architecture and design: media studies management courses: public affairs and history: music: literature: educational studies: psychology: society and community: technology: science: and mathematics and computing.

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Art, architecture and design: media studies management courses: public affairs and history: music: literature: educational studies: psychology: society and community: technology: science: and mathematics and computing.

The pound

Australia \$ 2.41
Belgium F 36.45
Canada \$ 1.18
Denmark Kr 11.29
Finland Mk 5.91
France F 6.55
Germany DM 2.36
Greece Dr 336
Hong Kong \$ 1.04
Ireland P 0.78
Italy Lira 2036
Japan Yen 160.48
Netherlands Gld 2.20
Norway Kr 11.27
Portugal Esc 204.84
South Africa Rd 4.60
Spain Ptas 166.64
Sweden Kr 8.46
Switzerland Fr 2.33
USA \$ 1.58
Yemenia Dr 880

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 323.0
London: The FT index closed up 21.8 at 1425.9.

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 25).

Anniversaries

TODAY

Births: Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, 1740-86, Berlin, 1712; Pierre de Beaumarchais, dramatist, Paris, 1732; Charles James Fox, statesman, London, 1749; Sir Edwin Chadwick, social reformer, Manchester, 1810.

Deaths: Lord Randolph Churchill, statesman, London, 1895; Amadeo Modigliani, painter, Paris, 1920; Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister, 1940-45, 1951-55, London, 1965.

TOMORROW

Births: Saint Edmund Campion, Jesuit martyr, London, 1540; Robert Boyle, physicist, Lismore Castle, Munster, 1627; Robert Burns, poet, Alloway, Ayrshire, 1759; Somerset Maugham, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1874; Virginia Woolf, writer, London, 1882; Wilhelm Furtwangler, conductor, Berlin, 1886.

Deaths: Robert Barton, scholar, Oxford, 1640; Dorothy Wordsworth, writer, Grasmere, 1855.

President Obote of Uganda was deposed by General Idi Amin, 1971.

OU broadcasts

Leaflets listing BBC Open University broadcasts 1987 for non-specialist audiences are available in the following subject areas:

Art, architecture and design; media studies; management courses; public affairs and history; music; literature; educational studies; psychology; society and community; technology; science; and mathematics and computing.

Art, architecture and design: media studies management courses: public affairs and history: music: literature: educational studies: psychology: society and community: technology: science: and mathematics and computing.

Art, architecture and design: media studies management courses: public affairs and history: music: literature: educational studies: psychology: society and community: technology: science: and mathematics and computing.

Art, architecture and design: media studies management courses: public affairs and history: music: literature: educational studies: psychology: society and community: technology: science: and mathematics and computing.

Art, architecture and design: media studies management courses: public affairs and history: music: literature: educational studies: psychology: society and community: technology: science: and mathematics and computing.

Art, architecture and design: media studies management courses: public affairs and history: music: literature: educational studies: psychology: society and community: technology: science: and mathematics and computing.

WEATHER

An intense anticyclone near the British Isles dominates the weather. Some drizzle but most areas will be dry and cloudy. Widespread overnight mist, but some dense fog in the morning will be reluctant to clear in lowland areas. Some areas will see brighter conditions and temperatures will be near the late January average, remaining cold under persistent fog. Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Little change in central and S areas on Sunday, with persistent dense fog in places. Clearer, colder weather reaching the N during Sunday, will push S, with rain in places, and snow over some higher ground.

TODAY Sun rises: 7.51 am Sun sets: 4.35 pm
Moon rises: 2.39 am Moon sets: 11.07 am
New moon January 29

TOMORROW Sun rises: 7.50 am Sun sets: 4.37 pm
Moon rises: 11.52 am Moon sets: 11.36 am
New moon January 29

LIGHTING-UP TIME
TODAY London 5.05 pm to 7.20 am
Edinburgh 5.15 pm to 7.25 am
Manchester 5.07 pm to 7.25 am
Penzance 5.32 pm to 7.35 am

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.
 Belfast C F
 Birmingham C F
 Bristol C F
 Cardiff C F
 Edinburgh C F
 Glasgow C F
 London C F
 Manchester C F
 Newcastle C F
 Nottingham C F
 Oxford C F
 Plymouth C F
 Reading C F
 Southampton C F
 Swansea C F
 Tynes C F
 Wolverhampton C F

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 pm to 6 pm, 9C (48F); min 5.15 pm to 7.25 am, 4C (39F). Humidity: 8 pm, 90 per cent. Rain: 24 hr to 8 pm, 0.02 in. Sun: 24 hr to 8 pm, 18.8 hr. Wind: 24 hr to 8 pm, 10.0/0.0 mph, rising. 1,000 metres: 29.53 in.

AROUND BRITAIN

Sunrise: 7.51 am Sunset: 4.35 pm
Moonrise: 2.39 am Moonset: 11.07 am
New moon January 29

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; th, thunder.

London 5.05 pm to 7.20 am
Edinburgh 5.15 pm to 7.25 am
Manchester 5.07 pm to 7.25 am
Penzance 5.32 pm to 7.35 am

ABROAD

Algeria C F
Amsterdam C F
Athens C F
Auckland C F
Bangkok C F
Barcelona C F
Beijing C F
Bombay C F
Buenos Aires C F
Cairo C F
Cardiff C F
Chicago C F
Copenhagen C F
Dallas C F
Delhi C F
Detroit C F
Frankfurt C F
Geneva C F
Hamburg C F
Harbin C F
Hong Kong C F
Istanbul C F
Jakarta C F
Karlsruhe C F
Kuala Lumpur C F
Lima C F
London C F
Los Angeles C F
Lyons C F
Madrid C F
Manila C F
Mexico City C F
Miami C F
Moscow C F
New York C F
Oxford C F
Paris C F
Perth C F
Plymouth C F
Portsmouth C F
Reading C F
Rome C F
San Francisco C F
Seoul C F
Singapore C F
Stockholm C F
Sydney C F
Taipei C F
Tampere C F
Tientsin C F
Tokyo C F
Toronto C F
Winnipeg C F
Yokohama C F

Algeria C F
Amsterdam C F
Athens C F
Auckland C F
Bangkok C F

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1425.9 (+21.8)
FT-SE 100
1795.3 (+17.8)
Bargains
43119 (36534)
USM (Datastream)
139.18 (+1.64)
THE POUND
US Dollar
1.5255 (-0.0095)
W German mark
2.7817 (-0.0036)
Trade-weighted
68.9 (-0.2)

UEI talks
on merger
called off

Talks which might have led to a merger of UEI, an electronics and engineering group and Oxford Instruments, another expanding high-technology group, were called off yesterday.

Questions over the industrial logic of a merger were raised in the City when the talks were announced on Monday. Yesterday, Mr Peter Michael, the UEI chairman, said it was the pricing of the deal which was the main obstacle.

The implications of the breaking off of the talks sent UEI shares up ahead to 372p, but Oxford fell 12p to 419p, reflecting the questions which now hang over its profit performance.

Professor to
head review

The chairman of the committee to review the law on banking services is to be Professor Robert Jack of Glasgow University, it was announced yesterday in a written statement.

Other members of the committee are Mr Geoffrey Taylor, for the Banking Association, and Mr Michael Giddens, for the Institute of Directors.

HK issue

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group's Hong Kong subsidiary is planning a HK \$100 million deposit issue, according to banking sources. The issue, the first by the group in Hong Kong, is expected to start in November 28, 1991, and November 28, 1992.

Bid accepted

The board of Sir Charles Southern's Southern Cross has accepted the £100 million takeover offer by Boral.

No referrals

The Trade Secretary, Mr Paul Channon, has decided not to refer to the Monopolies Commission the proposed acquisition by Courtaulds of Fothergill & Harvey. The acquisition by Courtaulds of Fothergill & Harvey has also been cleared.

Thorn to move

Thorn EMI is to move its group headquarters to new, smaller premises off Hanover Square, London.

Cookson buys

Cookson is offering 117p a share in an agreed bid for Industrial Precision Castings, valuing the company at £5 million.

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MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2170.58 (+24.08)
Dow Jones	2170.58 (+24.08)
Tokyo	1948.61 (+75.18)
Nikkei Dow	2488.42 (+37.51)
Hong Kong	2284.4 (+0.5)
Sydney AO	1559.6 (+4.9)
Frankfurt	1012.3 (+8.9)
Commerzbank	485.35 (+13.7)
Basels	423.3 (+8.5)
Parle CAC	522.10 (+26.5)
Zurich S&A Gen	65.63 (-8.11)
London FT A	1795.3 (+17.8)
FT 30 Share	1425.9 (+21.8)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Rate	11%
3-month bank rate	11% 1/2
3-month official bill	10% 1/2
US Prime Rate	7 1/4
Federal Funds	5 1/4
3-month Treasury bill	5 3/4
30-year bonds	10 1/2

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£1.5255	£1.5255
DM2.7817	DM2.7817
¥142.59	¥142.59
FF6.55	FF6.55
Scd 136.5	Scd 136.5
ECU 1.366	ECU 1.366

Argyll doubles market share in £681m deal
Gulliver buys Safeway

By Cliff Feltham

Mr James Gulliver's Argyll food group is paying £681 million for the chain of 132 Safeway supermarkets in the biggest deal in British food retailing. The takeover will double the size of Argyll, which runs the Presto food chain, creating a new group with sales of £2.2 billion and 9 per cent of the packaged grocery business.

Mr Gulliver, who lost to Guinness in the takeover battle for Distillers - last now bounced back to become the fourth largest grocer behind Sainsbury, Tesco and Dees.

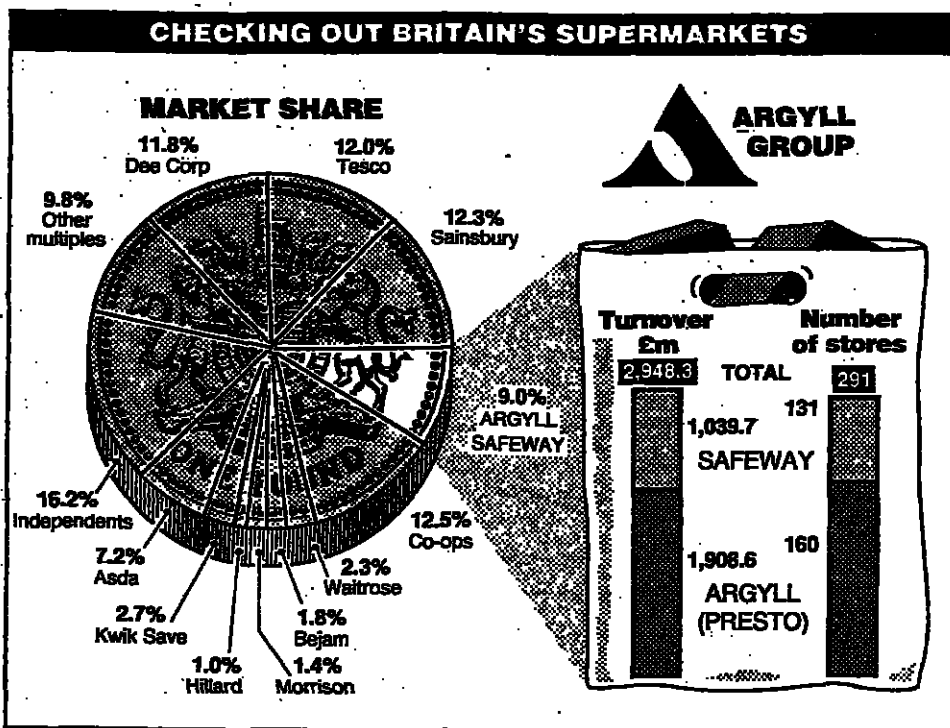
But although the deal was warmly welcomed in the City, some analysts said Mr Gulliver may have paid over the odds.

Andone said yesterday Safeway is one of the best run supermarket groups and he will have to work very hard to squeeze more profits.

Argyll has always been tipped as one of the front runners for Safeway ever since its American parent put the group up for auction to cut its own borrowings.

Safeway made pretax profits of £43.8 million on turnover of just over £1,000 million last year, a 40 per cent improvement on the previous year. Another nine new stores are due to open this year.

Argyll, which reported profits of £64.6 million last year, operates 530 Presto stores of which 160 of the larger outlets



The Argyll-Safeway deal has been struck against the background of a fast-moving supermarkets industry with a rising number of outlets in the hands of the top half-dozen food retailers.

Argyll, with its aggressive acquisitions policy, has been one of the prime movers in this development, together with Dees Corporation.

The majors in the industry have not been slow to recognize the economies of scale gained from being larger than the

Hint of a split on Argyll board

An evasive Mr James Gulliver appeared yesterday to have left the door ajar for a get-together with Guinness.

He said his Argyll group "has no intention whatsoever of bidding for Guinness or any part of Guinness."

This came after the overnight publication by Guinness of a letter from Mr Gulliver suggesting talks which might lead to a "friendly merger."

But Mr Gulliver would not quash speculation that an

Guinness fight
to unravel
Dewar's tangle

By Lawrence Lever

Guinness is fighting to untangle a legal nightmare over the distribution of its Dewar's Whisky brand by Schenley Industries in the US.

Documents in the board's possession indicate that the former Guinness board may have given Schenley the permanent right to distribute Dewar's in the US and effectively signed away the Dewar's brand name in that country.

Schenley bought over 17 million Guinness shares during the bid for Distillers thereby helping to support the Guinness share offer. It has recently secured the right to distribute Gordon's Gin for Guinness in the US.

The Schenley deal was arranged last year by Mr Thomas Ward, the American lawyer who has been asked to resign his Guinness directorship. The distribution agreement does not specify a date when the agreement should end and appears to have given Schenley the right to distribute Dewar's in perpetuity.

Apart from tying Guinness permanently to Schenley the agreement seems to have given Schenley the US rights to the Dewar's trademark since the trademark is specifically in with the agreement.

Schenley is regarded as a highly efficient distributor and used to distribute Dewar's for Distillers. However, the permanent link is highly unusual and Guinness which is not in official contact with Schenley is trying to find out why it has been created.

Meanwhile the search for the missing Guinness millions has revealed links between a mysterious £5 million payment and Sir Ralph Halpern's Burton Group.

Guinness have discovered a payment of £5.2 million to a Jersey based company called Marketing and Acquisitions Consultants.

This company has three shareholders, one of whom Michael James Darnley Dees, is a director of Debenhams, now owned by the Burton Group.

Mr Michael Wood, the Burton finance director said yesterday that "Burton Group has never had any interest in Marketing and Acquisitions Consultants Ltd and knows nothing of Mr Dees' involvement in it."

"No member of the Burton board has ever met him," he said.

Mr Wood explained that the two Debenhams subsidiaries of which Mr Dees is a director had been inherited by Burton and were no longer trading. "We will dissolve them in due course," he said.

It appears that Marketing and Acquisitions is merely a front company whose true owners are known to Mr Dees. A spokeswoman for Mr Dees said yesterday that he was abroad and that she had been instructed not to make any comment.

● Morgan Grenfell, the investment banking and securities group, announced yesterday that Sir Peter Carey was succeeding Mr Charles Rawlinson as chairman of Morgan Grenfell & Co, the merchant banking arm.

Sir Peter, a director of the group, is heading the executive committee set up after the resignation of Mr Christopher Reeves, the group chief executive, earlier this week. Mr Rawlinson is retiring as chairman on medical advice.

Protect Distillers,
says Scots Tory

By Colin Narborough

Distillers, the Guinness subsidiary, should be "put in quarantine" until the legality of the brewing group's acquisition and possible compensation are established, according to Sir Alex Fletcher, Conservative MP for Edinburgh Central.

Sir Alex, former Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, and an adviser to Argyll Group, which lost the battle for Distillers, was speaking after the latest revelations about Guinness's bid tactics.

He claimed: "There is a prima facie case that Guinness don't own Distillers at all."

Argyll is under pressure from some leading shareholders to begin legal proceedings against Guinness. Apart from the £55 million bid costs, it is considering claims for more substantial loss of profits.

Sir Alex was not clear what legal procedures would be required to "quarantine" Distillers from the rest of Guinness. "My concern is the legality of Guinness's acquisition and Guinness's right to make decisions about the future of Distillers."

He added that, if Argyll was illegally robbed of a chance of acquiring Distillers, it should be able to retain the options of acquiring the company or financial compensation, or both.

Fairfax in
new media
bid move

Sydney (AP-Dow Jones) - The John Fairfax company took further legal action yesterday in an attempt to stop a takeover bid for the Herald & Weekly Times by Mr Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation.

Fairfax claimed in the Supreme Court of the State of Victoria that the takeover document fails to disclose that News Limited, the Australian company through which the bid is being made, is a foreign-controlled company that intends to acquire more than 15 per cent of Herald in contravention of Australia's Broadcasting Act.

Fairfax is seeking damages and a series of declarations, injunctions and orders blocking the news bid. It is also seeking to restrain the Herald directors from registering the transfer of shares to News.

The Fairfax offer is Aus\$16 a share and the News Corporation offer Aus\$15.

Fairfax, Australia's biggest media group, claims that the News Corporation unit company making the offer, News Ltd, is controlled by Mr Murdoch, a US citizen.

The Australian Broadcasting Tribunal said late on Saturday that it would hold an inquiry next month into whether News Ltd is controlled by a foreigner.

Pound dips as poll
favours Labour

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The pound was marked down in foreign exchange markets on news of a Gallup poll giving Labour a five-point point lead over the Conservatives. But by the close it had recovered some of the loss ground as dealers re-assessed the significance of the poll.

Opening at 68.5 in terms of the trade-weighted index, sterling closed in London down 0.2 on the previous close at 68.9. The pound dipped 1/4 cent to \$1.5257 and 1/2 pence to DM2.7791.

Gilts mirrored the movement in the foreign-exchange market, opening a point lower at the long end but recovering some ground through the day.

In the money markets three-month interbank money - regarded as the most reliable bellwether of interest rate

P&O may
sell stake
in Stockley

Speculation is growing that the Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Co, whose chairman is Sir Jeffrey Sterling, will sell its 29.9 per cent stake in Stockley, the fast-growing property company, to Stockley itself.

P&O acquired the Stockley stake with its £286.8 million agreed acquisition of European Ferries. P&O is prevented from selling the Stockley shares to anyone but Stockley until May, and then Stockley has first refusal for two years.

Mr Elliott Bernerd, a founder of Stockley, said that he would be interested in buying the stake "if the price is right."



Sir Jeffrey: could be planning deal

Paribas in demand

The foreign offering of shares in Compagnie Financière de Paribas, the French bank, is already massively oversubscribed with a week to go before the offer period closes.

The bank said the 13.5 per cent of the issue being offered to overseas investors was six to 12 times oversubscribed, with heavy demand expected in France for the rest of the shares.

The shares are being offered at FF405 each, valuing the bank, the largest company to be sold so far in the French Government's privatization programme, at FF18.9 billion. The offer closes on January 30.

NFC advises its shareholders
Don't vote for the float

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent

The board of National Freight Consortium will advise the group's 21,000 shareholders to vote against a stock market flotation in 1987 at next month's annual meeting.

When NFC was privatized in 1982 in an employee-led buyout, an agreement was given that, starting this year, shareholders would vote annually on the board's recommendation for or against flotation.

Since the buyout, shareholders in the distribution, travel and property company have seen the value of an original £1 investment increase to £35, capitalizing the company at £270 million.

Sir Peter Thompson, the chairman, said yesterday: "We see no pressure to go to the market. The imperatives are not there." The forthcoming election meant that it was probably not the right time

politically, the group had no need to raise capital and the internal market for the shares was working well, he added.

Research had shown that there were many employees with reservations and there was a "tremendous amount of educating to do" before going public. He said it was impossible to predict when the need would come for flotation.

He was speaking after the publication of the 1986 accounts which showed a 36 per cent increase in pretax profits to £37 million on sales up 12 per cent at £748 million for the year to October 4.

About 70 per cent of NFC's 25,000 employees hold shares in the group. The company estimated that about 6,000 shareholders own at least 7,000 shares, valued at more than £12,000.

Employees are likely to support the board's decision on flotation.

Last year they voted for an extensive package of proposals designed to retain employee control while also widening the market for the shares.

This included the introduction of a profit-sharing scheme, for which £2.5 million of last year's profits was set aside, and allowed certain approved financial institutions to acquire shares in the company after employee demand has been satisfied on the four quarterly dealing days.

To date there have been no surplus shares but 15 new institutional shareholders took part in a placing of a limited number of shares sold by the original non-employee shareholders to widen the market.

The institutional stake remained at 17 per cent and is not expected to rise significantly this year.

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	Offer price pence	% Increase since launch
SEPTEMBER 1984		
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FEBRUARY 1985		
"The Investment Opportunity for 1985"	32.0	28%
OCTOBER		
"No.1 in Europe over 1 year"	40.1	60%
NOVEMBER		
"No.1 in Europe yet again"	44.0	76%
DECEMBER		
"Europe 86, from strength to strength"	47.1	88%
JANUARY 1986		
"The No.1 Unit Trust"	52.7	111%
JULY		
"Europe, Go for the Encore"	62.8	151%
JANUARY 1987		
The No.1 European Unit Trust over 2 years	79.5	218%

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STOCK MARKET

Analyst raises THF profit forecast to £170m pretax

By Michael Clark

The pattern of the year was weighed heavily yesterday on Mr. Rocco Forte, the chief executive of Thames Valley Water, as he kept a long-standing appointment in the City.

His wife is expecting to give birth to their first child any day now and Mr. Forte was clearly anxious to be at his side. Instead, he was keeping a long-standing appointment in the City of the offices of Williams de Broe, the stockbroker, where he appears to have put up an impressive performance.

Following in his father's footsteps was never going to be easy — as the refusal of his first major acquisition, the Happy Easter chain, to the Monopolies Commission, proved — but Rocco appears to be warning to the City.

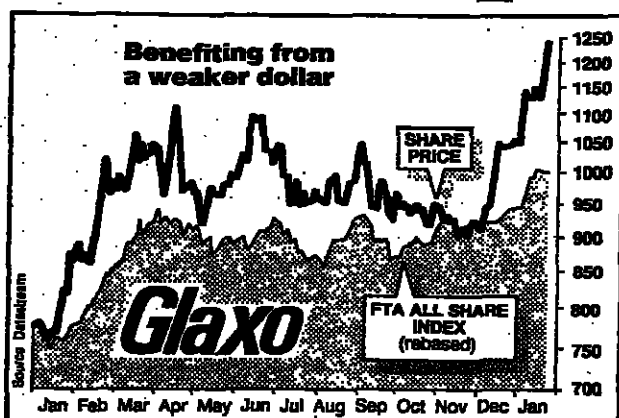
As one leading analyst com-

mented last night: "Rocco has definitely taken over from his father and this will show up in the results."

Williams de Broe has been a fan of the shares for some time, but Mr. Ron Littleboy, an analyst at the broker, has decided to upgrade his estimate of pretax profits for the current year from £165 million to the top end of the range at £170 million.

Trusthouse is the only hotel group in the world with its true asset value of 144p a share standing lower than its share price. The last valuation of its hotel properties was made at least three years ago and, even on a conservative estimate, must now be worth more than 200p a share.

Things are also looking up on the trading front, with



some strong growth expected from the catering side and the US this year. But those missing US towns, who cost the group £12 million in Britain and Europe last year, are also unlikely to make much of a contribution this year.

But Mr. Littleboy is unperturbed and still regards THF's shares as cheap. He thinks they should be trading at about the 260p to 300p level. Last night, they closed 6p dearer at 200p.

Meanwhile, the rest of the

equity market continued to take its cue from an unstoppable Wall Street. Following a 51.60-point rise overnight in the Dow Jones industrial average, share prices in London got off to another firm start.

The big fund-managers remained in a confident mood and were buyers to a man. Sellers were thin on the ground. This was in spite of the latest opinion poll showing Labour with a 5-point lead over the Conservatives and the industrial action among British Telecom engineers showing every sign of developing into a full-blown strike.

The FT index of top 30 shares continued to improve throughout the day before equalising its all-time high of 1,425.9, achieved in April last year, with a rise of 21.8. The FT-SE 100 was also scaling fresh heights, finishing 17.8 higher at a new peak of 1,795.3 as more than £4 billion was added to the value of quoted shares.

Dealers reported strong support for the big exporters as the dollar remained in the doldrums on the foreign exchange. Jaguar accelerated 14p to 580p as 1.1 million shares changed hands, while ICI added 17p to a new high of £12.16.

Glaxo, the pharmaceutical group, continued to hit new heights, with a 46p rise to £12.43, helped by persistent American support for the shares. The price has risen by

Shares of Courtaulds, the textile giant, are enjoying a re-rating, rising 14p to a peak of 368p. Word is James Capel, the broker, has added another £10 million to its estimate for the current year. Most brokers are looking for pretax profits of around £185 million.

more than 100p this week and according to several leading analysts may have further to go.

According to Miss Linda Tremaine, a leading pharmaceutical analyst at Savory Mills, the broker, everything is running in Glaxo's favour at the moment. Not only is the weak dollar prompting American investors to re-invest in British blue chip stocks, but it is also likely to provide a big boost to the group's overseas earnings.

Gifts recovered early falls of over 10p, but are clearly disappointed by the absence of an early cut in bank base rates, despite a cut in West German rates earlier this week.

COMMENT

Winners and losers in the Guinness saga

Long before the DTI inspectors delving into Guinness are even half way through their augean labours, the affair has already made its mark on the way the City goes about its daily business. Some things have changed temporarily, others perhaps for longer, some for better, some for worse.

It is quite clear for example that the high-profile contested takeover battle will, for the time being at least, become as rare as the proverbial snowflake in July. It is arguable that Sir Owen Green, the driving force behind BTR's expansion, is the first victim of this changed climate. BTR's decision to walk away from its bid for Pilkington was primarily due to the fact that Pilkington's recovery was coming through to profits rapidly, that investors were made very aware of the fact and that the glass manufacturer's shares commanded too stiff a price to represent a bargain.

Even so, it is by no means certain that institutional investors would have warmly welcomed improved BTR terms. They have been caricatured quite absurdly as a bunch of unthinking gamblers interested only in making a fast buck and selling Britain down the river in the process.

Thanks to the total lack of the City's ability to communicate the virtues of the role which it plays, the institutions are probably happy to have avoided further mudslinging.

Even senior Tories, who might be expected to have a reasonable knowledge of the workings of competitive capitalism, have been supporting the daft notion that investment is far too important to be left to investors. There is a danger that this backlash against the admitted excesses of some recent mergers may lead to a climate which becomes too hostile to the vital process by which the corporate sector proceeds through the cycle of growth, stagnation and regeneration.

The current review of competition policy now being undertaken within the DTI will be completed and considered in the light of the Guinness aftermath. Those involved also had a hand in an earlier effort to straighten out the tangled strands of public interest and competition in mergers. It produced the suggestion that policy should shift from neutral to adverse. Companies are at present allowed to proceed unless there are negative public interest considerations. Under the earlier DTI policy proposals they should have to establish some perceived benefits before being allowed to go ahead.

Such benefits tend to be a matter of subjective judgement and would give rise to the difficulties which have bedevilled merger policy in the past, before Norman Tebbit narrowed the focus to aspects of competition. Any switch which presumed that parties to

a merger were guilty unless proved innocent would be retrograde.

The post Guinness climate is likely to inhibit all manner of corporate activity that might otherwise have taken place. The obvious losers here are the merchant banks in general, and Morgan Grenfell, the former adviser to Guinness, in particular.

Given the volcanic nature of the upheavals which have hit them, the top people at Morgan were realistic and in good heart this week about the task that is before them. They have found their corporate clients supportive but face the fact that they are likely to have a tough time winning new business for a while.

The bank does not provide details of just how its profits break down, but Morgan did proportionately better than its leading rivals from corporate finance activities. The figures for the current year will still show the benefits of the mega-merger business before the Guinness affair erupted. Analysts expect that well over 40 per cent of the group's profits of around £90 million will arise from corporate finance activities. But 1987 will be the tricky year. The £35 million to £40 million contribution expected this year would not be repeated even if the 1986 merger mania persisted. But given the bank's blue chip client list it would be foolish to expect a collapse of revenues from this source. Analysts are pencilling in £20 million from corporate finance next year, not too far short of the figure for last year.

Morgan shares may not be the cheapest in the market at present, rated roughly in line with those of Hill Samuel, themselves buoyed up on speculative takeover stories. But Morgan's at 408p are close to the floor represented by net asset value including something for the market value of its sizeable fund management operations.

Looking on the brighter side, the gainers from the Guinness fallout will be the managements of companies like Grand Metropolitan, Pearson, Beecham and others which have been subject to endless rumours of impending attacks on their independence.

Grand Met has effectively blocked off most of the more extreme theories that it was to be dismembered by a shadowy consortium. Its £800 million purchase of the US wines and spirits group Heublein leaves it with a high level of gearing. In any leveraged attempt to take over Grand Met the existing assets would have to be truly swamped by borrowings. Other companies wracked by persistent bid rumours can look forward to relative calm in which to get on and run their businesses.

John Bell
City Editor

ALPHA STOCKS

These prices are as at 6.45pm

1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Volume	1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Volume
358	251	248	Alfred Lyons	330	+3	14.5	469	313	310	Ladbroke	395	+2	16.9
149	109	108	Amstar	145	+1	0.5	280	302	300	Land Securities	341	+1	14.5
188	145	145	ASDA-AME	145	+3	4.2	284	218	218	Legal & Gen	264	+1	12.9
336	292	292	Ass Br Foods	310	+4	10.1	684	352	352	Lloyds	493	+3	25.0
488	414	414	BET	485	+7	24.2	301	198	198	Luxor	258	+1	17.1
300	294	294	BHT	275	-20	8.8	231	189	189	Marks & Spencer	106	+2	5.8
514	444	444	BT	491	+46	10.4	622	507	507	Midland	600	+5	37.1
552	405	405	Barclays	530	+27	28.1	325	447	447	Net West	580	+57	27.8
785	703	703	Beaumont	777	+74	12.4	578	491	491	P & O Dred	561	+69	26.4
452	411	411	Beecham	461	+50	17.1	818	445	445	Pescara	573	+28	15.4
727	621	621	Blue Circle	685	+64	30.0	714	398	398	Pilkington Bros	670	+72	34.7
405	326	326	BOC	405	+79	15.4	245	162	162	Plaxton	204	+2	7.2
257	219	219	Boots	255	+36	10.8	568	748	748	Prudential	830	+82	38.8
580	446	446	BPI Ind	572	+26	14.8	224	148	148	Racal Elcot	159	+25	4.3
598	408	408	Br Aerospace	595	+87	23.4	292	189	189	Rank Hovis	289	+9	4.3
719	61	61	Br Gas	70	-72	9.8	589	467	467	Rank Org	552	+85	22.5
814	688	688	Br Petroleum	782	+78	48.6	929	734	734	Rediff & Coleman	915	+81	23.9
228	186	186	Br Telecom	225	+39	11.2	482	375	375	Rediff	438	+63	17.1
207	135	135	Britoil	158	-77	8.3	387	238	238	Reed Int	352	+114	5.0
284	248	248	Burns	248	+22	8.1	615	373	373	Reid	558	+85	34.0
372	277	277	Cable & Wireless	351	+74	7.2	791	532	532	RTZ	745	+113	31.4
128	172	172	Cadbury Schweppes	225	+53	11.2	540	365	365	Routemaster	488	+123	18.0
584	444	444	Castle M	572	+28	17.9	587	782	782	Royal Int	885	+103	38.5
256	257	257	Cent Union	289	+32	17.4	9	570	570	Sainsbury & Sainsbury	782	+29	3.9
714	558	558	Consolidated	745	+27	35.0	442	344	344	Sainsbury (J)	436	+40	8.4
1570	438	438	Coopers & Lybrand	530	+92	11.8	234	178	178	Scot & New	212	+34	10.3
396	306	306	Coulters	385	+79	10.2	148	78	78	Sears	124	+46	5.0
333	231	231	Day Corp	225	-20	10.6	385	300	300	Sedgwick Pp	380	+80	17.1
380	176	176	Deacons	314	+138	3.2	104	733	733	Shell	106	+33	51.4
850	448	448	Falmer	585	+137	8.4	292	112	112	Smith & Nephew	136	+24	3.2
541	705	705	Finland Accident	805	+104	94.0	185	122	122	STC	181	+59	2.1
225	180	180	GEC	188	+8	6.3	894	547	547	Ston Chart	787	+140	11.0
124	107	107	Glass	124	+17	20.0	365	259	259	Stonhouse	288	+70	11.0
430	354	354	Granada	328	-26	12.2	772	610	610	Sun Alliance	703	+107	25.3
481	365	365	Grand Met	455	+40	14.5	516	408	408	Tarmac	450	+108	17.5
114	84	84	GUS A	111	+7	34.4	102	72	72	TSB Pp	80	+12	8.1
953	757	757	GWE	825	+78	42.5	444	340	340	Tesco	433	+9	8.0
385	285	285	GWA	300	-85	17.9	582	442	442	Thorn EMI	558	+116	25.0
365	262	262	Guinness	275	-87	11.5	380	138	138	Transatlantic House	298	+29	18.9
625	408	408	Hammer	518	+110	6.1	200	138	138	Trusthouse Forte	198	+60	8.8
242	185	185	Haydon	230	-55	21.4	229	155	155	Unilever	229	+74	13.8
124	102	102	Imperial Chemical	124	+22	47.6	292	216	216	Unidisc	255	+39	13.8
628	380	380	Imperial Chemical	580	+100	25.4	292	216	216	Unidisc	255	+39	13.8
385	380	380	Jaguar	577	+97	22.2	516	243	243	Unilever	280	+37	11.5

TEMPUS

Hard pruning by Standard Oil should bear fruit next year

The BP executives' new firm in charge at the Standard Oil Company have been hard at work stripping out non-performing assets, cutting back staff to restore the US oil group's sprawling mass to more manageable proportions.

They have disposed of surplus oil and gas exploration leases, metals mining properties, coal reserves and several industrial companies.

But even after stripping out the necessary high level of extraordinary costs and one-off special charges, the 1986 results released yesterday make unhappy reading.

The culprit is the oil price. Standard's average selling price for its Alaskan crude halved in 1986 to \$13.83 a barrel from \$26.46 in 1985.

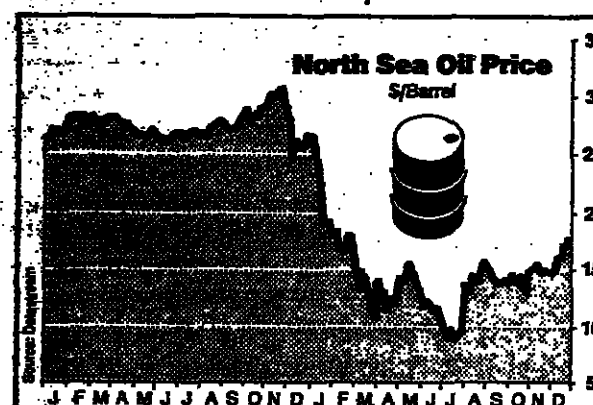
More than 97 per cent of Standard's oil production is high-cost output from the Alaskan North Slope, so the impact of the oil price fall on profits was expected to be disproportionately severe.

Operating income from oil and gas production fell to little more than one-tenth of what it was in 1985 — \$2,730 million to \$296 million.

The other areas of Standard's operations have seen big improvements. The most spectacular was metals mining where there was a transformation of a \$165 million loss into a profit of \$11 million.

Even so, 1986 net income excluding special charges and extraordinary items fell to one-third of its 1985 level — from \$1.46 billion to just \$499 million.

At 1986 oil prices, Alaska is barely profitable, so much rests on what the oil price does for the rest of this year. But the new, slinkier Standard Oil will reap the benefits of rationalization next year.



Paribas

There is still a week to go for British investors to apply for their shares in Compagnie Financiere de Paribas. The snag is that they may not get many, or any at all, with the international tranche of the issue already looking enormously oversubscribed.

The popularity of the issue is hardly surprising. The 405fr-a-share issue price is well below most expectations which hovered about the 420fr level, although some pundits expected as much as 440fr. The grey market premiums of 20 per cent probably indicate accurately the market's attitude.

Paribas is also attractive on fundamentals. It is bound to come out better in a comparison with British merchant banks. It carries out investment banking functions and boasts what is probably the highest-quality client list in France. Its large portfolio of commercial banking investments as long as the French economy looks as sound as it does at present.

Moreover, unlike its British counterparts, Paribas has

no Big Bang, and the uncertainty that implies, to contend with. While financial deregulation is moving forward in France, there is a natural safety net. The French still prefer doing business with the French, even if it costs a little more. For the time being, the terrors of facing Merrill Lynch or Nomura on an even playing-field are muted in Paris.

Additionally, Paribas has named Credit du Nord, its loss-making subsidiary, which turned in a 400 million franc deficit in 1985, but is expected to produce about 100 million francs for 1986.

Not surprisingly, then, Paribas's prospective multiple on the offer price is 10.8 per cent, according to Barclays de Zoete Wedd, on expectations of 1987 earnings comfortably breaking the 2 billion franc level. British merchant banks rarely see multiples anywhere near 10 times earnings these days. If the shares open at about the current grey-market price, there is unlikely to be much extra upside potential in them immediately for secondary market buyers; but they will be worth holding for the longer term.

Bryant/English China Clays

Bryant has not been pulling any punches in its fight with English China Clays, but, of late, its aim has not been true. Its letter posted to ECC's directors this week is a case in point. Having elevated its assets to undreamed-of levels, Bryant is tantalizing ECC with an accountancy teaser which should not tax the latter for long.

"Revalue your assets," it says, "under the acquisition accounting standard, to the level proclaimed by us and see your return fall or, fix on a valuation, net of acquisition costs and write off oodles of goodwill."

But there is something confusing about a situation where Bryant publishes a revaluation at £194 million but acknowledges that the valuation of its assets in a future set of 1986/87 accounts on a consistent basis with 1985/86, is unlikely to exceed £95 million.

If ECC plumps for a true and fair valuation of no more than £150 million, giving a minimum goodwill write-off of about £30-£40 million, it should avoid earnings dilution.

Weak holders, fearing a collapse in the Bryant price — to 140p or lower, some say — have been selling in the market, thus helping ECC to consolidate its position. Those still keen to participate in the future of Bryant are preparing to accept ECC's higher-value paper.

Although market sentiment is anti-takeover, ECC is hardly the typical aggressor. The outcome looks finely balanced, but ECC should win the day.

Select Country Hotels: Mr Michael Hulls has been named as director of development.

APPOINTMENTS

News International names directors

News International: Four new directors have been appointed by News International. They are Mr Lya Holloway, chief executive of Singapore Press Holdings from 1984 until 1986 and previously chief executive and managing director of Straits Times and Times Publishing from 1972; Mr William O'Neill, managing director, London Post (Printers); Mr John Cowley, joint general manager, News International; and Mr Leon Hertz, joint

general manager, News International. Mr Peter Ward is to be chief executive and Mr Richard Perry, non-executive chairman. Mr Ward will remain managing director. (Computer & Financial): Mr Peter Hicks has become sales director. Alexander Stanhouse UK: Mr Geoffrey Whitehead, Mr Greg, Mr Roger Surman, Mr Lawrence Law, Mr Ian Croft and Mr Richard Porter

have become divisional directors. Alexander Consulting Group: Mr AM D'Alessandro has been elected president and chief executive of the new global company. He also becomes chairman of the Alexander Consulting Group Ltd, the United Kingdom and European company. Mr John London becomes chief executive officer for the United Kingdom and European company, Mr R Allan Darward director and chief operating

officer United Kingdom, and Mr Brian Willets director and chief operating officer, continental Europe. Also appointed to the board of the United Kingdom and European company are Mr James Gilchrist, Mr Stuart Aird, Mr Brian Gibson, Mr James Walkden, Mr Malcolm Grint and Mr Ronald Forrest.

If you're about to invest in a pension plan make sure it's the best on the market.

ALLIED DUNBAR Managed Fund	STANDARD LIFE With Profits	FRIENDS PROVIDENT With Profits	ALBANY LIFE Multiple Fund	EQUITABLE With Profits	TARGET Managed Fund
\$13,739	\$14,603	\$15,230	\$15,788	\$16,145	\$24,688
\$3,500*	\$3,500*	\$3,500*	\$3,500*	\$3,500*	\$3,500*

Value of Pension Fund over 10 years to 1st September 1986

Assumes 10 annual premiums of \$500

Amount Invested (Allowing for tax relief at 30%)

Target soars ahead and shoulders above all rivals in the pensions field. The Times, Saturday 26th January 1986.

If you're self-employed or the director of a private company, you'll know all about the tax advantages of investing in a pension plan. Your biggest problem will be selecting the best from the rest. Obviously, the most important factor will be the size of your pension fund when you eventually retire.

Indeed the best performing contract in the survey was linked to Target's Managed Fund. The Daily Telegraph, Saturday 31st December 1985.

All too often, this decision is taken as a result of comparing projected growth figures, whereas the only realistic basis for comparison is achieved growth. The table above compares the actual results of an investment in the Target Personal Pension Plan — linked to the Target Managed Fund — with three leading with profits policies and two other unit linked plans invested in managed funds.

And, with Target you're not committed to keeping up a regular payment. You may vary the level of your investment to suit your personal circumstances. Except, of course, with a growth record like ours, we think you'll want to invest more rather than less. To find out more, use the Freepost coupon below, or call the Client Services Department on 0296 384000 9am to 5pm, Mon. to Fri.

UNIT TRUSTS · LIFE ASSURANCE · PENSIONS · FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Please let me have further details of the Target Pension Plan. T1241

Name _____ Occupation _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Bus. Tel. No. _____

Send to: Dept. MF, Target Group PLC, FREEPOST, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3YA.

... ..

Portfolio
Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on average, only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Unilever	Consumer Goods	100
2	Unilever	Consumer Goods	100
3	Wade Pottery	Consumer Goods	100
4	Wade Pottery	Consumer Goods	100
5	Wade Pottery	Consumer Goods	100
6	Wade Pottery	Consumer Goods	100
7	Wade Pottery	Consumer Goods	100
8	Wade Pottery	Consumer Goods	100
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46	Wade Pottery	Consumer Goods	100
47	Wade Pottery	Consumer Goods	100
48	Wade Pottery	Consumer Goods	100
49	Wade Pottery	Consumer Goods	100
50	Wade Pottery	Consumer Goods	100

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily total for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Open	Close

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

High	Low	Open	Close

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Open	Close

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Open	Close

UNDATED

High	Low	Open	Close

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Open	Close

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

High	Low	Open	Close

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Open	Close

DRAPERY AND STORES

High	Low	Open	Close

CINEMAS AND TV

High	Low	Open	Close

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Open	Close

FOODS

High	Low	Open	Close

HOTELS AND CATERERS

High	Low	Open	Close

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Open	Close

MOTORING AND AIRCRAFT

High	Low	Open	Close

SHOES AND LEATHER

High	Low	Open	Close

TEXTILES

High	Low	Open	Close

TOBACCOS

High	Low	Open	Close

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

High	Low	Open	Close

OIL

High	Low	Open	Close

FINANCE AND LAND

High	Low	Open	Close

E-K

High	Low	Open	Close

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Firm end to the account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 12. Dealings ended yesterday. Contango day on Monday. Settlement day February 2. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E ratio are calculated on the middle price.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Unilever	Consumer Goods	100
2	Unilever	Consumer Goods	100
3	Wade Pottery	Consumer Goods	100
4	Wade Pottery	Consumer Goods	100
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49	Wade Pottery	Consumer Goods	100
50	Wade Pottery	Consumer Goods	100

BREWERIES

High	Low	Open	Close

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

High	Low	Open	Close

FINANCE AND LAND

High	Low	Open	Close

FOODS

High	Low	Open	Close

HOTELS AND CATERERS

High	Low	Open	Close

INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Open	Close

MOTORING AND AIRCRAFT

High	Low	Open	Close

SHOES AND LEATHER

High	Low	Open	Close

TEXTILES

High	Low	Open	Close

TOBACCOS

High	Low	Open	Close

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

High	Low	Open	Close

OIL

High	Low	Open	Close

FINANCE AND LAND

High	Low	Open	Close

E-K

High	Low	Open	Close

L-R

High	Low	Open	Close

S-Z

High	Low	Open	Close

OVERSEAS TRADERS

High	Low	Open	Close

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

High	Low	Open	Close

PROPERTY

High	Low	Open	Close

MINING

High	Low	Open	Close

LEISURE

High	Low	Open	Close

INSURANCE

High	Low	Open	Close

OVERSEAS TRADERS

High	Low	Open	Close

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

High	Low	Open	Close

PROPERTY

High	Low	Open	Close

MINING

High	Low	Open	Close

LEISURE

High	Low	Open	Close

INSURANCE

High	Low	Open	Close

OVERSEAS TRADERS

High	Low	Open	Close

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

High	Low	Open	Close

PROPERTY

High	Low	Open	Close

Portfolio
Gold

DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000
WEEKLY DIVIDEND £8,000
Claims required for +36 points
Claims required for +225 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

1995 High	Low	Company	Price		Gain or Loss		Yr
			Bid	Offer	Ch	%	
150	140	Gold Pkt	56	56	44	7.8	
150	140	Gold Pkt	56	56	44	7.8	
150	140	Gold Pkt	56	56	44	7.8	
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FIXED PRICE OFFER - CLOSES 27 JAN 1987

GENERAL INFORMATION

TO SELL UNITS: To sell units, complete the Form of Renunciation on the back of the Unit Certificate and send it to the Managers. Units will be repurchased from you at the "bid price" ruling on receipt of your instructions — and payment will normally be made within seven working days.

INCOME: Holders of Income Units will receive income payments on 31st May and 30th November each year. Holders of Accumulation Units will receive tax credit vouchers showing the amount of net income that has been accumulated on their behalf. The first income distribution will be made on 30th November 1987.

MANAGEMENT CHARGES: An initial charge of 5.25% (equivalent to 5% of the offer price plus a small rounding adjustment) of up to 1% or 1.25p (whichever is lower) is included in the offer price of the units. From this, remuneration is paid to approved intermediaries at rates which are available on request. The Trust Deed permits the Managers to make an initial charge of up to 7%. An annual charge of 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Trust is deducted from the gross income in accordance with the Trust Deed. This may be increased to 1.5% (plus VAT) subject to giving Unit-holders three months' written notice.

MANAGERS AND REGISTRAR: Providence Capital Fund Managers Limited, Providence House, 30 Uxbridge Road, London W12 8PG. Telephone: 01-749 9111. Telex: 934227.

SWISS EQUITIES TRUST

As insurance companies brace themselves for a record winter claims payout, JOE IRVING unravels the confusion surrounding loss adjusters and loss assessors

There is a great deal of confusion about loss adjusters and loss assessors. The difference is that the adjuster takes his brief from the insurance company and the assessor operates on behalf of the claimant. Most small claims are settled without the use of either.

An adjuster is normally called in by the insurer when a claim goes in for £250 or more. His job is to check for the company whether the claim is genuine — in other words if the claimant is over-estimating. He is unlikely to tell a claimant that he may be underestimating his claim.

That is where the assessor comes in. He acts for the policyholder and although he may not be quite worth his weight in gold, he is usually worth his fee.

He is in business because many people do not realize all they can claim for on their policy, so they underpresent their claims.

The assessor aims to extract from the company everything to which the policyholder is entitled, and usually he will achieve more than the claimant could have got for himself. This is because he knows all

Widow's settlement almost doubled

the wrinkles that an adjuster, as the insurer's paid agent, has no cause to point out.

In a case this week, Harris and Company, one of the country's leading firms of loss assessors, almost doubled the settlement for a London widow whose lounge carpet and furniture were ruined by water from a burst pipe. She would have settled only for those items, costing around £2,500 to replace.

The adjacent dining room was undamaged, but it was separated from the lounge only by sliding doors, and it

A black and white photograph showing a group of people on a small boat in the foreground. In the background is a large, multi-story building with a prominent chimney and a gabled roof. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost stencil-like quality.

Flooded out . . . but an assessor can make life a little better

had the same carpet and decorations. Harris persuaded the company that to remain alike both rooms had to be re-carpeted and re-decorated together. The settlement was agreed at nearly twice the original figure.

Similar success was obtained for a family whose kitchen was flooded by a burst upstairs pipe. Together with other damage, the water ruined a kitchen cupboard for

turned a kitchen cupboard for which a matching replacement was impossible to obtain. It meant that all the cupboards had to be replaced, and the insurance company stood

What this means is that people are entitled to the use of this kind, though they do not usually realize it, may be entitled to claim for matching replacements of colour schemes and articles of furniture. No one should be fobbed off with repairs such as putting up a new image of a three-piece suit when the repair shows, or with an odd item of furniture for an original attention on people distressed by burglary, fire or theft. Damage and loss of irreplaceable possessions. However, a reputable loss assessor will not connive in false claims.

Mr Turbeville, a practising assessor, says: "I would certainly never try to falsely claim for a claimant's claim, but to see that they get what they are entitled to — no more and no less."

inal matching set. Many of the current state of

insurance claims will be small enough to be settled without the intervention of a loss adjuster or assessor. Some times by an amicable compromise between the insured and the claimant.

Where it is felt that an assessor may be worthwhile, he should be brought in immediately, before any claim form has been filled in or communication with the insurance company entered into other than to inform it that a claim is pending.

No assessor, in fact, will join negotiations in mid-stream. He will insist on handling the situation from start to finish.

What will you get for your money? What you will not get is a guarantee that the assessor will get a better settlement than you may have got for yourself. Neither will you get someone with an impressive

A loss assessor has no official qualifications, but he is usually highly experienced in the hard world of insurance. His fee will depend on the size of the settlement, which is why from both his and the claimant's point of view, the insurable claim must be reasonably high.

Mr Turbeville charges a minimum £25 plus expenses, but he will not be wildly interested unless the potential settlement is much higher than that. Harris and Company looks for a minimum fee of £500, charging 10 per cent of the settlement.

But Anthony Harris says:
"We are willing to give advice

Not the easiest people to find

in the present circumstances to smaller claimants, provided we are not flooded with requests."

Loss assessors are not the easiest people to locate in some areas. The IPLA will give details of its 150 or more members. They represent only about one-fifth of the number in business, but applicants are

***Institute of Public Loss Assessors, 14 Red Lion Street, Chesham, Buckinghamshire (0494 400322).**

(U494 /82342)

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**These figures
refer to
Thursday's trading**

BEST BRIT TRU

122 HENRI

FAMILY MONEY/2

Community of prices

House prices in Europe are broadly in line with those of the UK, says the National Building Society, in a new report published this week. The major exception is West Germany where owner-occupation is so expensive that rented accommodation accounts for more than 60 per cent of the market. The comparable figure in Britain is only 38 per cent, says the Nationwide.

The report also shows that the UK stands midway up the table when it comes to the amount needed to buy a home. The average married worker in the UK would have needed to save 165 hours in 1984 to buy an average house. This compares with a low of 6,469 hours in Denmark and a high of 20,459 hours in West Germany.

In the UK, says the Nationwide, the present housing and taxation systems are so favourable to owner-occupation that a general collapse in prices is most unlikely.

Christmas movers

Home-buyers used the Christmas period to house-hunt in an effort to take advantage of lower prices before the expected spring boom. So says the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, which reports sales made right up to Christmas Eve and between Christmas and the New Year.

Peter Miller, of the RICS, says the possibility of a 1987 general election may cause uncertainty in the housing market and that while house price increases are likely to move upwards again in the spring, they are unlikely to be as volatile as in 1986.



"I think we're the perfect couple - I'm lonely, you're rich; I'm bored, you're rich; I'm broke, you're rich; I'm desperate, you're rich..."

"Instead, we anticipate an active but more rational market," says Mr Miller.

Looking East

A new unit trust specializing in the potentially high-growth economies of the Far East has been launched by John Govett Unit Management Ltd. Govett's Pacific Strategy Fund will aim for capital growth from attractive-looking companies in countries such as Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Taiwan, Thailand, South Korea and the Philippines. It could be exciting but it is not one for widows and orphans. Minimum lump sum investment is £500 and there is a savings scheme which starts at £25 a month.

Details: John Govett Unit Management Ltd, Winchester House, 77 London Wall, London EC2N 1DH (01-588 5820).

Double Top snag

The Learning Spa Building Society has teamed up with Commercial Union Assurance to offer what sounds like an enticing package, until you read the small print. The Double Top Account offers savers with at least £10,000 to spare an equal split between a building society account and an insurance bond. The building society account offers a highly competitive rate of interest of 12 per cent a year net of basic rate tax but, and here's the snag - it is guaranteed for only six months. After that, the interest rate will drop, probably by around 3 per cent.

What is more, although the CU insurance bond has performed well enough since it started in 1983, it suffers the disadvantage of all such products - that the insurance company has to make an allowance for capital gains tax liability, which depresses the performance of the bond in comparison with similar unit trust products which do not pay CGT.

Lessons in finance

A new financial services company, Fraser Marr Ltd, has been set up by former executives of school fees specialists C. Howard & Partners. The new company is a subsidiary of Owners Abroad plc, the tour operator and airline group. School fees advice is certain to be high on the list of services offered by Fraser Marr but the company plans also to cover areas such as tax and pension planning as well as mortgages.

Fraser Marr has its head office at 229-231 High Holborn, London WC1. There are offices in Bath and Manchester as well.

Guernsey offer

Monday is the opening date for a new Guernsey-based residential property fund from N.M. Schroder Financial Management. Initial offer price is £1 per 1p participating share. This comprises the nominal value of 1p, a premium of 85p and an initial charge of 6p. Minimum initial investment is £1,000. Schroder's Malcolm Taylor explains that the fund's main objective is to invest in prime residential properties, which will be let to corporate tenants for use



Malcolm Taylor: investing in prime residential properties

by their senior executives. Initially the fund will confine its investments to central London and parts of Surrey but may look farther afield in due course.

Details: N.M. Schroder Financial Management International Limited, PO Box 273, Schroder House, The Grange, St Peter Port, Guernsey, G1 (0481 26750).

NEW!

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The prospects for the UK stockmarket appear excellent, yet many investors are reluctant to commit funds owing to the uncertainty of the General Election. Now, Clerical Medical have the answer - Election-Proof investment. Invest now in the UK through Clerical Medical Equity High Income, General Equity or Pedigree Growth Trusts. Switch FREE overseas into Clerical Medical Japan, European, American or International Income Trusts - at any time up until Polling Day in 1987. Obtain a copy of our FACTSHEET on Election-Proof investment now. Call our free Linkline or return the coupon without delay.



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or write to Clerical Medical Unit Trust Managers Limited, FREEPOST (BS20) BRISTOL BS2 0AB. Please send me your Election-Proof Investment Factsheet.

Name _____
Address _____
Financial Adviser (if any) _____

Now for Switzerland

EBC Amro, which already markets unit trusts concentrating on France and The Netherlands, launches a Swiss Growth Trust today.

Most of the Swiss securities business is centred on Zurich, and the Swiss equity market is the fifth largest in Europe with a total capitalization about one-third that of the UK. The EBC Amro fund will be managed in London with investment advice from three Swiss banks - Oppenheim Plesner and Vonnard of Zurich and Heutsch of Geneva.

The managers forecast an internationalization of the Swiss capital market so that Zurich can compete more effectively with London and New York. This is a long-term trend but EBC Amro's Jane Swinglehurst points to two factors which she says will boost performance this year.

First, Swiss pension funds have recently been allowed to increase their investment in Swiss equities and this will release institutional liquidity into the market. Secondly,



Jane Swinglehurst: two factors many Swiss registered shares, previously available only to Swiss nationals, are now available to non-Swiss investors, via warrants.

Minimum investment in the fund is £500. The aim is capital growth from a portfolio comprising financials, chemicals, retail services, food and drink and industrials. Probably good as a long-term bet, but don't look for short-term fireworks.

Details: EBC Amro, 6 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4YE (01-621 0101).

HIGHER INTEREST RATES

30 DAY SHARE: 8-10% to 9-31% to 13-11%
90 DAY SHARE: 9-38% to 9-52% to 13-41%
3 YEAR SHARE: 9-58% to 9-73% to 13-70%

Portsmouth Building Society
176 London Road, North End, Portsmouth PO2 9EX.
Telephone: (0705) 653311.

LAUNCH PRICE OFFER CLOSING 30TH JANUARY

BE OF BRITISH TRUST



Henderson has selected some of the most successful companies in Britain to form this new trust.

Until 30th January, you can take advantage of the launch offer price of 40p per unit, with a minimum investment of £400.

Talk to your professional adviser now. Or telephone Vicky Law on 01-638 5757 for further details.

HENDERSON THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS

THE OBSERVER
UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
OF THE YEAR

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
UNIT TRUST GROUP
OF THE YEAR

MERCURY RECOVERY FUND

The top performing UK-invested unit trust over 5 years

Mercury Recovery Fund outperformed every other UK-invested authorised unit trust over the five years to 1st January, 1987.* This record is the product of our commitment to consistent long term performance, which won us two top awards for 1986.

To invest in Mercury Recovery Fund, simply complete the coupon below.

*Source: Planned Savings, after prices, bid price at time of investment.

MERCURY

MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD. - PART OF MERCURY ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD.
33 KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON EC4R 9AS.
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS IS A MEMBER OF THE UNIT TRUST ASSOCIATION.

To: Mercury Fund Managers Ltd., FREEPOST, London EC4B 4DQ. Tel: 01-260 2560.
(Registered Office: Registered in England No. 182517)

Please invest £ in Mercury Recovery Fund (minimum initial investment £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/DISTRIBUTION* units at the price ruling on receipt of this application.
DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY. A contract note will be sent to you.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____ (PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME)
Full Forename(s) _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

I am/we are over 18 years of age.

Signature _____ Date _____

Particulars and signature of any applicant should be attached. *Please delete, as appropriate, whether you wish your units to be accumulated. Payment and correspondence will be sent to the address unless you specify otherwise.
This form is not valid if completed in the Republic of Ireland.

71-24-1

The price of units, and the income from them, can go down as well as up.
Past performance, it should be remembered, is not necessarily a guide to future growth or rates of return.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The aim of Mercury Recovery Fund is to achieve capital growth by investing in companies whose share prices are depressed for one reason or another but which offer attractive recovery prospects. No particular level of income will be aimed for and the fund is not recommended for those seeking a consistent high level of income. The Managers may also invest in foreign equities and need interest securities when these appear appropriate.
The minimum investment is £1,000. Subsequent investments may be made at any time.
Units may be purchased at 11p and bid prices calculated daily. Prices and yields will be published daily in the Financial Times and prices in the Daily Telegraph but without responsibility for any error in publication or for non-publication.
Contract notes will be sent to all unit holders. Receipts for applications and

payments will be sent to all unit holders. Contract notes will normally be sent within 10 days of receipt of payment. Units can be redeemed at any time and payment will be made by cheque or cash on seven days' receipt of the redemption certificate.

Management charges of 1 per cent (plus VAT) are deducted from the price of units. The annual management charge of 1 per cent (plus VAT) is deducted from the price of units. The annual management charge of 1 per cent (plus VAT) is deducted from the price of units. The annual management charge of 1 per cent (plus VAT) is deducted from the price of units.

Annual dividend payments will be sent to unit holders and a report on the progress of the fund together with a list of current holdings, will be sent to unit holders once a year on 15th June and 15th December.

The fund is a limited liability company, registered in England, and its shares are listed on the London Stock Exchange. The fund is a member of the Unit Trust Association.

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UNIT TRUSTS COMPETITION 87

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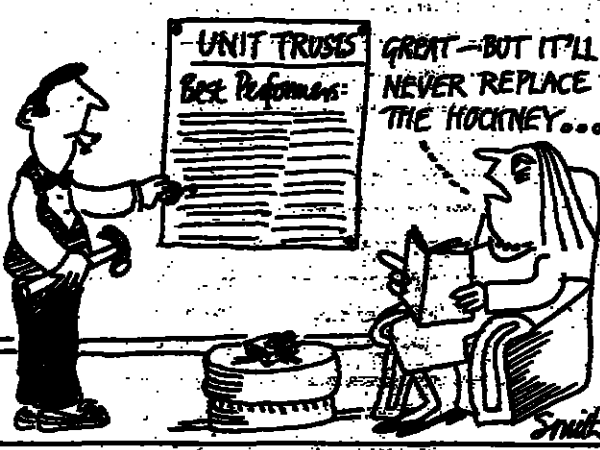
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COMPETITION WINNERS

General: Mr Paul McNeese, Mrs Dorothy Kelly, Mr Eric Mitchell.
Professional Advisers: Mr A.J. Phillips, Mr A.J. Tripp.
Under-18s: Mr Mark Hermann, Mr T.A. Horsfall, Mr Christopher Trinder.

Mr Paul McNeese	
Legal & General Far Eastern (2nd)	211.2
Target Trust Pacific (42nd)	164.8
Baltic Japan & General (54th)	162.9
Total	538.9

Mrs Dorothy Kelly	
Legal & General Far Eastern (2nd)	211.2
* MIM Britannia Euro Performance (18th)	138.9
TR Special Opportunities (113th)	148.4
Total	498.5

Mr Eric Mitchell	
County Bank Japanese (4th)	200.8
Frankington International Growth (76th)	108.5
EFM Smaller Japanese Companies (336th)	129.0
Total	438.3

Mr Paul Archer	
* MIM Britannia Japan Performance (19th)	176.6
Oppenheimer International Growth (40th)	126.4
Frankington American Gen (346th)	97.8
Total	400.8

D.J. Phillips	
Sentinel Pacific (31st)	169.8
Garnmore Gold Share (68th)	113.5
Perpetual American Growth (814th)	103.8
Total	387.1

Mr A.J. Tripp	
Fidelity European (53rd)	162.1
GT German (45th)	124.4
Henderson Japan (13th)	179.5
Total	466.0

Mr Mark Hermann	
Sun Life Japan Growth (10th)	184.3
Oppenheimer Int Growth (40th)	126.4
Baring Japan Sunrise (316th)	129.7
Total	440.4

Mr T.A. Horsfall	
TR Japan Growth (14th)	179.3
Holborn Communications (77th)	107.6
F&C European Income (101st)	150.9
Total	437.8

Mr Christopher Trinder	
Mercury Japan (16th)	177.8
EFM Tokyo (155th)	142.8
BG Japan (44th)	164.8
Total	485.4

* MIM merged with Britannia

UNIT TRUST EXPERTS' SELECTIONS FOR 1986

Janet Bony, Barry Asset Management	142.8
1. Overseas Investment Situations (15th)	124.4
2. GT German (45th)	124.4
3. Perpetual International Growth (40th)	126.4
Total	390.0

Peter Edwards, Premier Unit Trust Brokers	102.1
1. Target American Eagle (22nd)	124.4
2. TR Smaller Companies (25th)	178.6
3. * MIM Britannia Japan (19th)	176.6
Total	412.0

Peter Hargreaves, Hargreaves Lansdown	107.8
1. Holborn Communications (77th)	107.6
2. Abbey American Growth (51st)	158.5
3. Target European Special Situations (25th)	385.2
Total	669.1

Mark Seely, Richards Longstaff	129.0
1. EPM Smaller Japanese Companies (336th)	129.7
2. Baring Japan Sunrise (316th)	129.7
3. Perpetual American Growth (814th)	103.8
Total	592.2

* Merged with Britannia

Everything you need to organise your way to greater business success...and it's all at your fingertips.

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Setting priorities. Daily planner keeps track of your activities, organises your job priorities each day on an hour by hour basis. Additionally it provides sections for contacts, follow-ups, statistics and personal reminders.

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The Address and Telephone directory is infinitely extendable and ensures that you're never caught without the information you need to make important calls, in person or by phone.

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ACTIVITIES

AN ORGANISED SCHEDULE

The Activities section includes an Activities Checklist to itemise tasks in hand, a Business Meeting Planner and Project Management Organiser to chart action steps, start and finish dates, organise priorities and plan delegation.

NOTES

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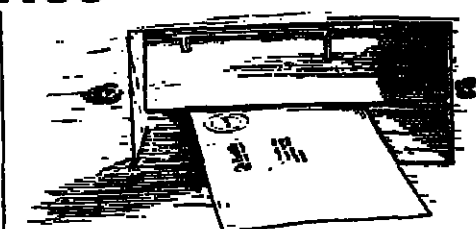
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LIFE POLICIES

Your money or your life? That standard cry of the 18th-century highwayman provides the basis for a new policy launched by Allied Dunbar this week. The group is moving strongly into term insurance, which provides maximum protection for your family at very little cost.

The contract lasts for a fixed period of perhaps 10 or 15 years, and if you die within that time, there will be a considerable payout for your family - because the odds are strongly on your survival. But if you outlive the contract, you have to start again.

Term insurance makes sense for people who want to be sure that if anything happens to them, their partners will have enough to bring up the family. Businesses that want to protect themselves against the impact of losing some key executive are another obvious market.

Ten years ago, few insurers were really interested in selling term insurance, though it was always available. Allied Dunbar's launch shows how much times are changing.

The new scheme has many an actuarial twiddle, as you would expect from the company, though, to be fair, many

of them make a lot of sense.

For a start, all the policies are "convertible". If you take out a policy but want to switch into an Allied savings plan or a whole-of-life policy when it ends, you can do so on the standard terms - even if you are at death's door. You can go on with this conversion process, as every policy ends, until you are 65.

Allied Dunbar's rates are certainly lower than those most insurers provide, at the outset. A man of 30 who does not smoke and wants £150,000 cover for 10 years has to pay only £11 month. The rate for women is £10.85.

But charges rise dramatically the older you are - and the gap between what men and women pay starts to widen. For instance, men of 40 wanting the same potential £150,000 benefit over 10 years have to pay £27.05, whereas

Company has its own question on Aids

the rate for women is only £18.80.

The contracts are unit-linked, and the starting figures assume that the group will get a return of 8.25 per cent, after allowing for all its expenses, including deaths, commission and start-up charges. Allied Dunbar will look at how things are going, first after five years, and then year by year in the last five years of the contract.

If the returns are higher than expected, the policy's potential value will go up. But if an Aids epidemic or a stock market collapse ensures that today's assumptions are too optimistic, your monthly premiums will rise to allow for it.

Like most other insurers, Allied Dunbar has its own question on Aids in the proposal form - though it asks only whether you have had a blood test, and if so what the results were. The company may insist on a medical anyway. But unlike most other insurers, it will allow you to have it done by your own doctor, and not by an outsider.

Once you are accepted, there are endless opportunities to raise the insurance levels. For a start, Allied Dunbar will assume that you want your premiums, and the potential payout, to rise in line with earnings year by year - unless you opt out.

That may be useful, though cynics may reflect that it is one way to keep the early premiums down.

That is only the first chance to boost the premiums and a potential payout. The company has established a series of "trigger" events to help you to do so. If you marry, have or adopt a child, or increase your mortgage, you can double the value of your policy automatically - though there is a ceiling of £100,000 a time. At the more affluent end of the market, you can make the same move, if you find some inheritance pushes up the potential tax bill on your own estate.

If your family or financial circumstances are unchanged



YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE - WITH OUR NEW TERM INSURANCE...

but you want to raise your insurance levels, you can generally do so, but this time the company can insist on a medical.

Like almost every other company, Allied Dunbar has special rates for non-smokers - up to 35 per cent lower. But the definition is relatively generous. If you have given up for a year, you count as a non-smoker - and the same goes for people who keep strictly to pipes and cigars.

The group will concentrate on four main markets. Salesmen may start with small businesses, where two or three people at the top provide most of the driving force. If one of them is killed by a coronary or a car crash, in the next five or 10 years a keyman policy (merely term insurance with a corporate benefit) will at least provide a breathing space.

The policies can be very useful too, when directors of a small firm have an agreement to buy the shares that any one of them leaves behind in the event of early death.

There is an equally strong market with inheritance tax. Many people in their forties with their own homes suddenly find themselves inheriting

ing their parents' houses worth possibly £60,000 or more. If you add that alone to what they may have already, they will find themselves or rather their heirs in the inheritance tax-paying classes.

A term policy on their own lives can provide some of the funds to meet it.

Allied is also going to sell the policies to people with repayment mortgages unless they already have term insurance.

But term policies make most sense of all for parents with relatively young children. Everyone thinks of the young widow with little income raising children on her own. But working widows could find it just as difficult to look after the children and make ends meet.

Insurers always used to claim that selling really basic insurance of this kind was

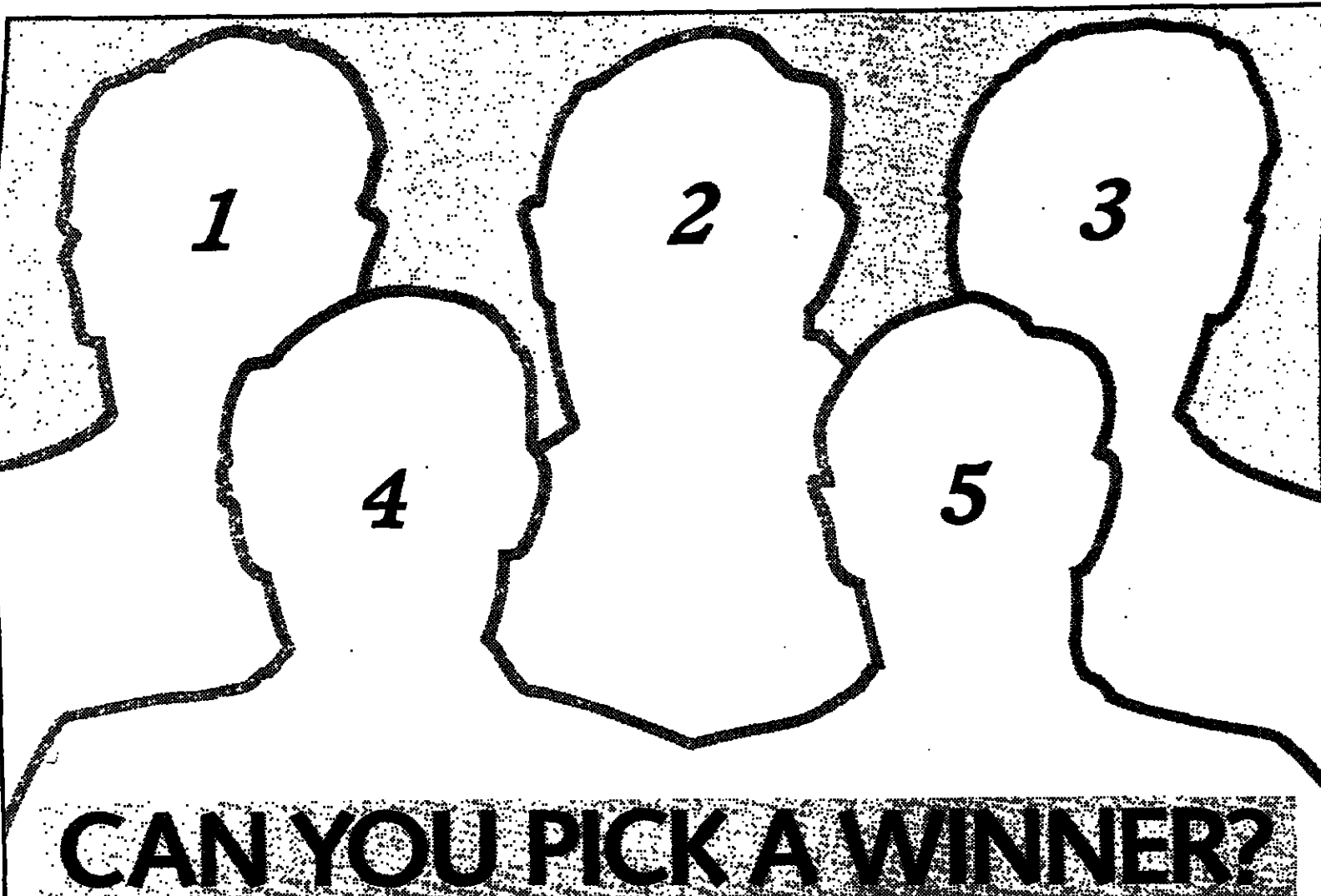
Sales bring in so little commission

difficult, because there is nothing for a survivor. But term insurance sells excellently in America.

The real problem may be the commission rates for those who sell them. On paper they look excellent, for they pay wide up to 90 per cent of the first year's premium. But the premiums themselves are so low that they bring in sellers little cash.

All the same, Allied Dunbar's entry shows that term policies will not be the Cinderella they once were.

Tom Tickell



CAN YOU PICK A WINNER?

WE CAN.

Probably there is one investment philosophy that is more successful than any other.

Look for a "winner." Look for a company with people at the centre who can manage and motivate - and innovate. And keep a company successful.

Look at the most dynamic companies in Britain and you will find they are nearly all driven by winners. A Hanson Trust will be powered by a Lord Hanson, a Burton Group by a Ralph Halpern, a Marks & Spencer by a Lord Rayner.

Back such companies and the gains can be good. Because winners tend to produce the best results.

An investment in a company like Stanley Kalms' Dixons Group can easily multiply several fold in a few years. For example, £1,000 invested in Dixons back in 1980 would now be worth over £15,000 - 15 times as much.*

Regency's new Elite Fund is singlemindedly devoted to the philosophy of finding and backing such winners.

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Of course, there are some risks. And the Fund's price can go down as well as up. But the Elite Fund has initially spread its investment among some 19 different companies. So the risks are reduced. While the prospects of sustained growth are excellent.

Be a winner yourself. Invest now.

* (Calculated 1st January 1980 to 14th January 1987)

WHO ARE NUMBERS 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5?

Are they, for instance, Burton's Sir Ralph Halpern, Dixons' Stanley Kalms, Hanson Trusts' Lord Hanson, Marks & Spencer's Lord Rayner, P & O's Sir Jeffrey Sterling?

Or are they a selection from the other 14 'winners' in the initial portfolio of the Elite Fund?

Size of Investment

The minimum investment is £2,000, the maximum £100,000. Extra sums of as little as £500 may be added to your investment at any time.

An Investment Bond

This is a special form of investment - an investment bond. Your money is used to buy units in the Regency Select Investment Bond linked to the Elite Fund, and underwritten by Regency Life Assurance.

This Bond includes an element of guaranteed life assurance - which will start on the day your application and cheque are received. If you should die whilst the Bond is in force, 101% of the 'bid' value of your units on the day of your death, will be paid to your estate.

Tax Advantages

Investment bonds have special tax advantages. You have no personal liability to either basic rate income tax or capital gains tax on any aspect of your investment. But you may have a liability to higher rate income tax when you partially or totally surrender your Bond. However, this can be reduced, or even avoided, by careful planning of encashments.

The Free Income

Your Bond can also be used to provide a tax-free income - as long as you don't take more than 5% of your original investment in any one year.

Charges

The initial management charge is 5% (plus a rounding adjustment) - reflected in the difference between 'bid' and 'offer' prices of units. The annual fund management charge is 1% (subject to a maximum of 1.5% of the value of the Fund).

All management and dealing costs are borne directly by the Fund.

Cashing Your Investment You can cash some, or all, of your units at any time. The value of your units will be calculated at the 'bid' price prevailing on the day following receipt of your instructions.

This is intended to be a medium term investment. So, rather like a building society high interest deposit account, there is a small charge for very early withdrawals - 2% of the value of your units in the 1st year, 1% in the 2nd year, no charge thereafter. These deductions do not apply to regular withdrawals specified at the start.

Following the Progress of Your Investment The 'bid' and 'offer' prices are normally published daily in the national press. You will also be sent annual statements showing the number and value of units you hold.

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A cheque made payable to Regency Life Assurance Company Limited is enclosed.

Name (Mr/Ms/Mrs/Ms) _____
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Postcode _____

Please tick the box if you wish to arrange for a regular income

Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Half Yearly ☐ Annually ☐

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____

First Applicant: _____

Joint Applicant: _____

I/We hereby apply to Regency Life for the Select Investment Bond and I/we agree that this application will form the basis of the contract between me/us and Regency Life. I/We hereby declare that I/we have read and understood the details given.

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4. EDINBURGH TANKERS	Specialist ships	Asset backed currency hedge.
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FAMILY MONEY/6

In the last of his series on inheritance tax, **WALTER SINCLAIR** deals with further opportunities for minimizing the tax.

More ways to cut the taxman out of your will

Certain transfers are in general exempt, whether made during your life or on death. Similar rules also apply to trusts. If you are able to make such exempt transfers, either in your lifetime or by your will, substantial inheritance tax (IHT) savings could result.

The following are examples:

- Trading transactions which are exempt if allowed as deductions in computing the profits for income tax purposes.

- Gifts for national purposes made to certain bodies, and gifts for public benefit of property deemed by the Treasury to be of outstanding scenic, historic, scientific or artistic merit.

- Gifts to charities are exempt without limit. Gifts to charitable settlements are covered by the exemption, as are gifts to charities from other trusts.

- Gifts to political parties are wholly exempt if made more than a year before death; otherwise there is an exemption of £100,000 in total.

If you have a substantial estate, consider making large donations to charity during your lifetime, so that no IHT is paid, even if you die within seven years. Also, you should not overlook the advantages of making regular payments by deed of covenant, which will attract useful income tax benefits.

As well as the various transfers mentioned above being exempt from IHT, certain categories of property are "excluded" from your estate for these purposes. Excluded property escapes IHT, both during your life and on death. You should therefore invest in such property, particularly if you are non-domiciled.

The following are examples of "excluded property":

- Property outside the UK if you are non-domiciled for IHT purposes in this country. This has important planning applications.

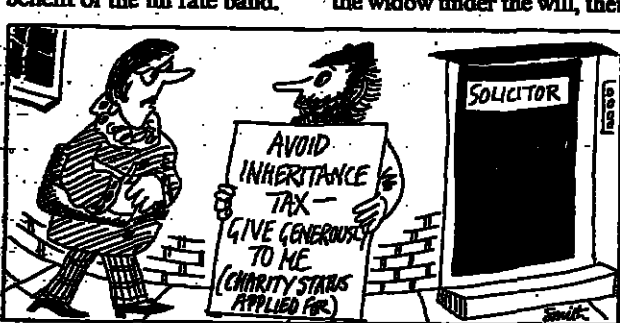
- Some overseas pensions, from former colonies, for example, including death payments and returns of contributions.

- National Savings certificates and premium bonds, if you are domiciled in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

- Certain British government securities, provided you are either domiciled or ordinarily resident in the UK.

On the subject of exemptions, mention should be made of business and agricultural property relief. Depending on the circumstances, 50 or 30 per cent of the value of such property is omitted from your estate for IHT purposes.

Substantial IHT savings can result from a well drawn will. For example, you should ensure that, if possible, both your wife and yourself by your separate wills leave £71,000 to other people (not to each other) so that you each get the benefit of the nil rate band.



You must consider not only lifetime transfers which have borne tax, but also potentially exempt transfers (PETs) within the last seven years. As each of these becomes more than seven years old, the IHT which would be payable on your death changes.

You should then consider changing your will - perhaps leaving more to your children or grandchildren.

Avoid leaving too much directly to your children if they are already wealthy; better to leave money in trust for your grandchildren. Such trusts might be discretionary, or more usefully accumulation and maintenance settlements.

IHT is not charged on certain variations in the destination of property passing on death. Nor is it charged on the disclaimer of title to

property passing on death.

The variation or disclaimer must be within two years of death. An election to the Inland Revenue is required within six months of the variation or disclaimer. As a result, the will is effectively rewritten for IHT and capital gains tax purposes as if the changes took effect at the date of death.

Variations and disclaimers are valuable IHT planning tools. Transfers free of IHT can be effected in this way so that, for example, if you are one of the legatees, you might arrange for money to go direct to your children.

If all the estate has gone to the widow under the will, then

visions for IHT purposes and can be used to counter many arrangements which otherwise would be successful in avoiding the tax.

If you have any plans to save IHT in a complicated way, you should always remember the associated operations rules.

Debts - Special IHT rules: In calculating the net value of your estate immediately before your death, certain debts may not be deductible if you have made connected gifts to the creditors. The rules cover debts before March 17, 1986.

For example, say you give property worth £40,000 to your son and borrow this amount back; the £40,000 debt will not be deductible from your estate when you die.

Gifts with reservations: If you have made a gift after March 17, 1986, but reserved some benefit, this will normally result in the property remaining yours for IHT purposes on your death.

However, if the reservation ends, you will be treated as making a PET at that time. Thus IHT could be due if you die within seven years.

A particular example is where you gift a house (other than to your spouse) but remain living there. The rule does not apply if your benefit is minimal (for example, you do not live in the house but pay only occasional visits).

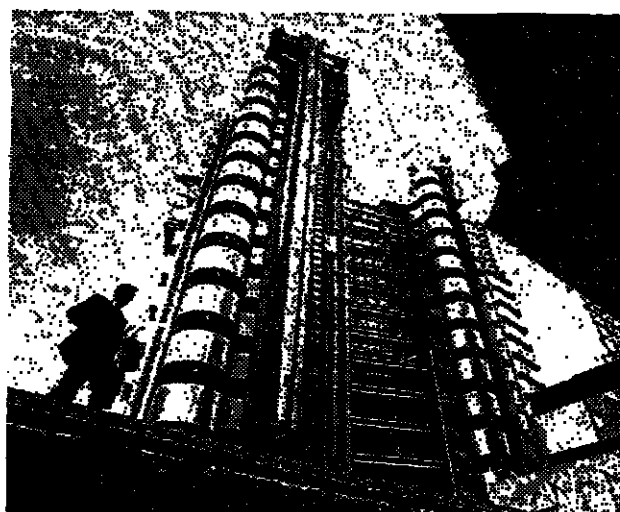
If you give full value for any benefit (say, pay a full rent for the house), the rule is also set aside.

The rules do not normally catch regular premium insurance policies made before March 18, 1986, and not altered since then.

Also outside the rules are certain exempt transfers including small gifts, inter-spouse gifts and marriage gifts, and gifts for charity, national purposes, public benefit, employee trusts and political parties.

Considerable care should be taken not to be caught by the provisions regarding gifts with reservations. As well as with the matrimonial home, problems may be encountered with investments, discretionary trusts, family companies, and some life assurance arrangements.

The author is a tax partner with chartered accountants *Kidsons*, and co-author of the *Allied Dunbar Guide to Capital Taxes and Estate Planning*.



Lloyd's of London: all set for Sir Patrick's shake-up

The Lloyd's plan that should please

The report by Sir Patrick Neill and his committee of inquiry into "Regulatory Arrangements at Lloyd's" should please all but the most hawkish of Lloyd's names.

The market's most strenuous critics are disappointed that Sir Patrick has not seen fit to subject Lloyd's to the external supervisory authority of the Securities and Investments Board.

However, he has advocated shifting the balance of power within the council of Lloyd's, doing away with the majority held by the working members and increasing the number of nominated members, who have to be approved by the Bank of England.

The reconstituted council, which Lloyd's has promised to implement, will be 12 working members, eight nominated members and eight external names, instead of 16 working, four nominated and eight external. The nominated members are to be on all significant Lloyd's committees and the executive role of the elected chairs (working members) is to be reduced.

Sir Patrick's main reason for rejecting an external regulatory board was that Lloyd's was different from other investment markets, because it had to protect both policyholders and names, with the protection of policyholders being paramount. He denied that political exigencies dictated that his recommendations should all be possible within

the scope of the present Lloyd's Act.

The fact that all the recommendations can, however, be implemented by the council without further legislation means they can be implemented promptly. Some of the most important include:

- Introduction of a compensation scheme for names whose losses arise by means other than normal underwriting.

- An ombudsman to deal with names' complaints against Lloyd's and a streamlined arbitration procedure to facilitate the investigation and resolution of names' money claims against their agents.

- Greater choice for names to pick between agents and syndicates, aided by abolition of the "one agent one class of business" rule.

- A mandatory deficit clause, whereby agents share in the losses as well as the profits of their names, and a standardization and full disclosure of agents' charges.

- Tightening up rules against parallel syndicates, whereby the same underwriter or managing agents run two separate syndicates writing the same classes of business.

The Association of Lloyd's Members is delighted that the Neill report has taken all its submissions on board. It remains to be seen how many Lloyd's will implement, but its initial reaction is encouraging.

Alison Eadie

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Moreover, with £150 million under management and an excellent 80-year record of investment, Murray Johnstone can demonstrate a winning track record.

As well as its competitive edge, the managers of Olympiad will maintain a vigorous scrutiny of investment markets. Murray Johnstone personally visit 80% of all the companies in which we invest. This contributes in no small way to our consistently good results.

One of the surest signs of this success is our ability to draw on significant worldwide resources and investment expertise. Murray Johnstone conduct research on a global scale through an impressive list of international contacts, not least of which are giants like Kemper of Chicago and Yamaichi of Japan with whom we have joint investment management agreements.

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Murray Johnstone have distinguished themselves in every field they've entered. From venture capital, to unit trusts, investment trusts and pension fund management, performance has been consistently outstanding.

Now you can benefit from our success with Olympiad. The combination of international strength, track record and investment skill can make this unit trust a truly great champion.

To take advantage of this great investment opportunity simply ring the Olympiad line on 0800 833 575 or complete the coupon and send the medal to us with your cheque. The minimum investment is £500.

See you on the podium!

Investors should regard this opportunity as a medium to long term investment. Past performance does not guarantee a similar result. The best of investment performance is not guaranteed. The purchase of unit trust investments is permitted in other stock exchanges or markets in respect of which the Secretary of State has published a notice of approval. Unit trust investments are subject to the conditions in the trust deed.

CHARGES: Initial 5% (included in the offer price). Annual 1% **PRICE AND YIELD:** The initial offer price is fixed at 50p per unit and the offer price on 15 February 1987. The estimated gross yield is 14% p.a. **DISTRIBUTION:** Distributions will be made on 31 March and 30 September each year. The first distribution will be payable on 30 September 1987. **DEALING:** Units are normally bought and sold daily (excluding bank holidays).

Current prices and yields are published in the Financial Times, Daily Telegraph and Glasgow Herald. **SELLING UNITS:** To sell your units, sign the certificate and return it to the Managers who will send you a cheque normally within seven days. **TRUSTEE:** Chesdale Bank PLC. **MANAGERS:** Murray Johnstone Unit Trust Management Limited, 163 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 2UH. Tel: 041-221 9252. Registered in Scotland No 65067.

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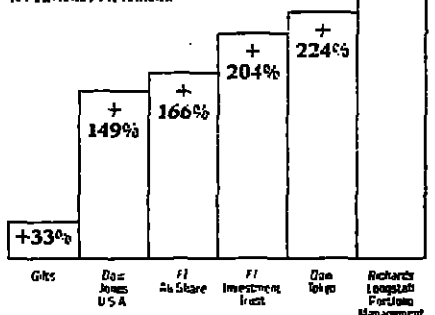
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A profitable marriage for the best man

This week **JOHN ROBERTS** turns the spotlight on the Nationwide Building Society and examines what its diversification plans will mean for more than five million savers in the light of its proposed link-up with the Anglia

"He's by far the brightest man in the entire building society movement," a colleague familiar with his personalities told me. "He is head and shoulders above the rest."

Certainly, that may be physically true of the more than 6ft tall Tim Melville-Ross but metaphorically, too, it probably holds good.

Almost a year after the collapse of its attempt to merge with the Woolwich Building Society, Nationwide last month announced its betrothal to the Anglia, itself the product of several previous mergers achieved not without difficulty.

How well can Mr Melville-Ross, nominated chief executive of the merged group, cope with a sharply increased scale of operations? There is, too, the possibility of sensitive personality issues. Anglia's chief general manager, Tony Stoughton-Harris, has proved quite able and willing to stand on his own feet.

Then there are commitments to provide a diverse range of financial services beyond simple mortgages, and the need to reconcile the rival computer network cash dispenser systems which the two societies use.

The difficulties might disturb a less determined man and it is not as if Nationwide — already Britain's third largest building society with assets of £11.9 billion — had not already proved itself with the means to exploit the new regulatory environment for building societies.

Moreover, Mr Melville-Ross has seemed ambivalent about how far Nationwide's transformation should go, being willing to embark on several commercial activities and yet unwilling to go the whole hog and become a quoted public company.

"We would prefer to stay as

we are in that respect," he told me. "We are more comfortable with the socially oriented mutual nature of the organization, for that is more in keeping with our customers' image of our culture."

"Personally, I have misgivings about the short-term perspectives towards investment by the institutions," says 42-year-old Mr Melville-Ross, who after 10 years with BP spent a few months in stockbroking just when the Stock Exchange suffered its sharpest ever decline in 1974. He then became Nationwide's company secretary and rose to director and general manager.

Why is it necessary to merge with Anglia?

"There are very large competitors that we have to cope with, not just other large building societies but also, increasingly, the banks," says Mr Melville-Ross.

"We are directly in competition now with the Barclays and Midlands of this world and unless we have the financial and other resources to cope with that, we aren't going to compete effectively."

Before the two months of



Stoughton-Harris

talks with Anglia began, Nationwide had already told its customers (and promised its staff) that from April it would start offering cheque books to its customers. These will bear no evidence of having been processed for clearing by the Co-op Bank, which is performing the same service for Abbey National and Girobank.

Mr Melville-Ross admits that this simple money transaction is unlikely ever to be profitable "but as we offer a more diverse range of services it is a core part of the operation, giving us the ability to handle the customer's ac-

count and through that account getting directly the information we need."

The more diverse range of services is dictated partly by competitive pressure.

"We have a ridiculously narrowly based balance sheet for an organization our size," Mr Melville-Ross said. "It is a peculiar way to run a business. We face increased competition in our traditional area from the banks and others offering a wider range of services."

"It would be easier for the banks to drive us out of the market than vice versa because the banks, for instance, could cross-subsidize from unsecured lending, which we can't do."

Nationwide's customer-owners had voted overwhelmingly in favour of their society extending its range of activities. More than 50 per cent of customers wanted it to offer cheque services, and sizeable minorities were in favour of the society undertaking estate agency work, handling conveyancing and offering personal loans.

A large number of people would also select Nationwide unit trusts rather than the competition but therein lies a trap for the unwary. Their reason was the perception that a Nationwide unit trust must be safer. In the nature of the beast, that cannot be.

"We've got to blow that idea out of the window," said Mr Melville-Ross, implying that cautious about the hazards of such investment would figure rather more prominently than usual in advertisements for any trusts offered.

Before the talks with Anglia began, Nationwide had shown no strong inclination towards financial supermarkets or share shops. Anglia, on the other hand, had not only progressed further on electronic funds transfer but had also announced a tie-up with stockbrokers Hoare Govett, with a pilot share-dealing service through 17 of its branches.

Nationwide's preference had been for staying closer to its last. Long before the law gave it freedom to take over estate agency firms, for instance, it had signed up provisional deals in anticipation.



Melville-Ross: 'Having to cope with very large competitors'

There is no room to accommodate them in the building society branches, so the string of firms signed up for their expertise and local goodwill will probably find themselves selling some forms of insurance.

Mr Melville-Ross had poached professionals from the insurance companies and

'Much to contribute to merged society'

now reckons that whereas the law still bars Nationwide from actually underwriting policies as an insurer, it could begin selling unit-linked policies with the small true insurance element contracted to a recognized company.

"That way we can get the business on to our balance sheets," said Mr Melville-Ross.

But whereas the company plans to bring the two automatic teller machine networks together, will it be able to reconcile such different diversification strategies and the personalities behind them? Mr Stoughton-Harris of Anglia has been through it all before.

"Although we're the junior partner in terms of size," he says, "we have a lot to contribute to the merged society and certainly experience, which has usually been from the small society going into something larger — we can

handle the sort of difficulties that might well arise."

Mr Melville-Ross says: "There are separate but complementary skills that we can both bring to what is genuinely a merger."

"We have got different plans and one of the great benefits of the merger is that we can pursue those different plans together without there being any significant clash at all."

But the capital demands of all these projects are prodigious and, given the requirement for a building society to maintain its appropriate capital ratio, that militates against Nationwide's retention of the mutual status Mr Melville-Ross cherishes.

Even before the Anglia agreement, however, he was toying with the idea that some of the various financial services could be spun off as separate quoted subsidiaries.

The Building Societies Act also limits to 5 per cent of the society's assets the amount it may commit to non-mortgage activities. Whereas the Act allows that limit to be raised over time, it seems unlikely to keep pace with Nationwide's expansion of financial services.

By agreeing the merger with Anglia, Mr Melville-Ross has given himself a larger asset base from which to calculate that 5 per cent.

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Pensions: will women do better?

The day of pension liberation draws enticingly nearer. If you are in employment, you could have a crucial decision to make about taking out a personal pension scheme (PPS), as the era of individual choice and pension portability is ushered in next year. FENNELL BETSON provides this update

The Inland Revenue and the Department of Health and Social Security are on the point of adding the finishing touches to their model PPS, which will be used to launch maybe a thousand pension packages in its likeness.

But before this happens, they have invited comments, and there are a number of points on which potential PPS users should take up this invitation.

From the Revenue's consultative document, *Improving the Pensions Choice*, and the DHSS draft regulations, we have some idea of the shape of the new pension vehicle.

As far as benefits, contributions and tax treatment are concerned, the PPS is to be modelled on the S226 policy for the self-employed and those in non-pensionable employment.

The main difference is that

you will be able to use it if you opt to stay out of your employer's pension arrangements. You can also use it for contracting out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS). If you can persuade your employer, he can contribute to your PPS.

The benefits may be taken as a pension, at any age from 50 to 75 (the lower age limit is at present 60 under a S226), and as a lump sum of up to three times the remaining pension. Pension mortgages seem likely to have a much wider market.

Where your PPS is to be contracted out, that portion of your, and your employer's, National Insurance contributions (NIC) which would

Benefits to be taken in pension form

otherwise go to SERPS (or the total NIC rebate if you are in a contracted out scheme) will be directed by the DHSS to whichever institution is providing your PPS.

These contributions will secure what in DHSS parlance is called "protected rights". In other words, the benefits are restricted, in that they have to be taken in pension form only. No cash sum is to be allowed.

This pension can be taken only at the discretionary age of 60 and after if you are a woman; 65 if you are a man.

You may be further cheered if you are female because the DHSS is insisting that unisex annuity rates be used to buy the pension.

However, the gains look as if they will be muted as not many men are likely to be able to retire before 65, and the rates will reflect the woman's predominance in the group. After 65, women retiring should do better, though most will probably have retired by then.

Unisex and unistatus rates are also to be used to provide, on death after retirement, a 50 per cent pension to a surviving spouse. So whether you are male or female, married or single, the same annuity rate is used. Bachelors aged 65 will not like that.

By the time you have complied with all these protected rights, the pension secured may not be that great. This is because the contributions will be limited to the NIC contracting-out rebate, applying only to the earnings band between £1,976 and £14,820.

At present, this rebate is 6.25 per cent of this band - split 2.15 per cent to the employee and 4.1 per cent to the employer - but this is expected to be reduced to around 5.5 per cent next year.

Provided you have not been in a contracted-out employer's scheme for the previous two years, you will qualify for an



additional 2 per cent NIC rebate bonus, payable for five years from April 1988 if you decide to take a PPS and contract out.

The overall amount you will be allowed to contribute to a PPS is to be set at 17.5 per cent of earnings (higher for those aged 51 and over), though if you are contracting out, the NIC rebate contributions are not counted towards the limit.

Up to 5 per cent of earnings, as with S226 policies, can be used to buy life cover, though this comes from the 17.5 per cent limit. Any employer's contributions will be within these limits.

Full tax relief will be obtainable on your contributions - and you should get basic rate relief immediately once your employer supplies the necessary certificates.

The system the Revenue is adopting follows the pattern of mortgage interest relief at source (MIRAS).

It is being nicknamed PIRAS - and you will pay your contributions net of basic tax to the PPS provider, which, incidentally, can include a bank, building society or unit trust group as well as an insurance company or friendly society.

They will collect the tax relief directly from the Rev-

enue but should credit you with the full investment once the contribution is received.

For the contracted-out portion, the DHSS will collect the tax relief due from the Revenue and pass this to the PPS provider, along with its NIC rebate payment. The indications are that this process could take more than a year in some cases and on average about nine months, which means a long time before the investment takes place.

But the most restrictive aspect in the proposals is that the Revenue is limiting you to one PPS provider at a time. You will be able to change from provider to provider, by ceasing the first PPS and taking out another.

There is some doubt as to whether this means you will be able to have only one PPS contract "live" at a time, or just one PPS provider who will be able to offer a range of contracts.

But either way, this proposal as it stands would make serious inroads into your ability to have a range of live PPS in order to give yourself a balanced portfolio of investment links.

No one institution is going to be the best performer across the board. The Revenue needs to rethink this restriction, as it could impose severe limits on your ability to provide for your future.

For those who decide to stay within their employer's scheme, it would be logical to allow them to contribute to their own PPS-type arrangement rather than having to put their contributions into their employer's additional voluntary contribution scheme.

As freedom and choice are the watchwords in this discussion, it seems harsh that something more of an opportunity to exercise these options is not going to be available.

If you are quick about it, you can pass your views to the taxman. Send them to Philip Clarke, Inland Revenue, Policy Division 2, Room 23 New Wing, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LB, by next Friday.

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Getting your credit with care

OVERDRAFTS

If you have succumbed to the temptations of the January sales or the lure of the ski slopes, your bank account may be overdrawn. AMANDA PARDOE spells out the consequences

Running up an overdraft is no laughing matter. It is always expensive and it can be embarrassing.

Where a customer runs up an unauthorized overdraft, the banks are bound by law to pay only correctly drawn cheques which have been written with the support of a cheque guarantee card. The manager has every right to bounce any other cheques, or standing orders, for that matter, on that account. The fact that you may have sufficient funds on another account to cover these transactions is irrelevant.

Usually, however, the banks return cheques only as a last resort, and even then they have to be careful to check that no mistakes have been made on their part. If a bank bounces your cheque in error, you could sue it for breach of contract.

As well as acting cautiously, the banks also tend to be fairly considerate. If, for example, several cheques are presented which, if taken individually, could be paid, but when combined result in an overdraft, the bank will usually examine the payees and return those which are likely to cause the least trouble. An electricity bill would, therefore, be paid in preference to a cheque written to an individual.

Attention is also given to the wording used on returned cheques. The least offensive is where the bank can pick on a technical flaw. For instance, although it is fairly common practice to overlook cheques that are dated with the wrong year in the early days of January,

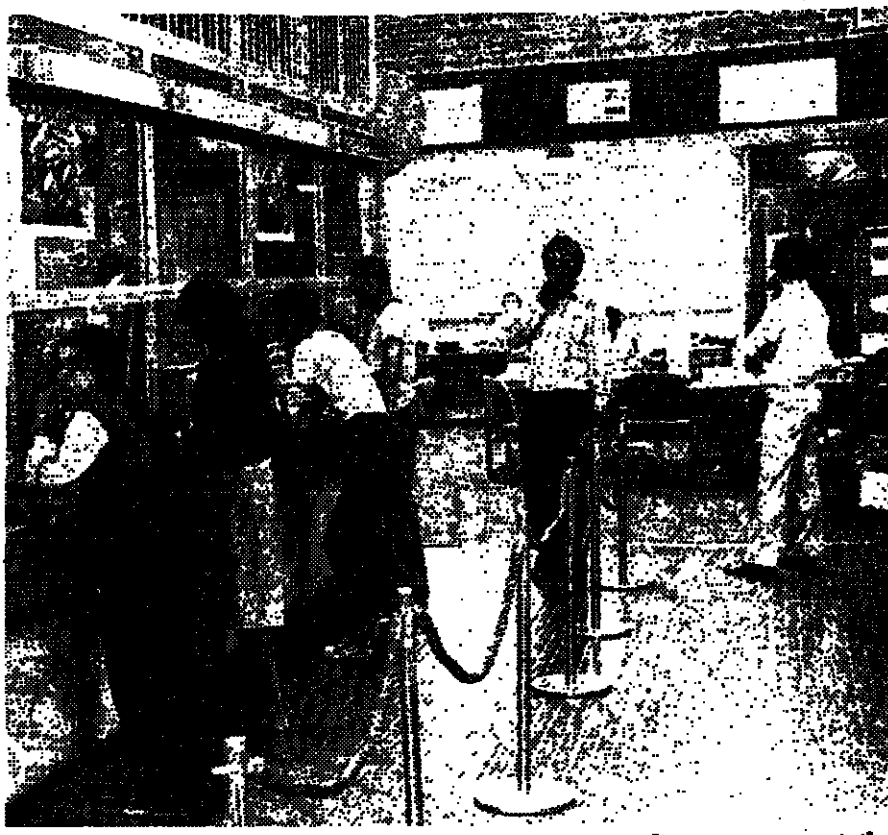
Returning cheques creates extra work

these could be returned, where appropriate, for being "out of date".

A stronger, frequently used expression, is "Return to drawer, please re-present." In everyday language this means: "The drawer does not have sufficient money at present, but is expected to in due course."

Where a cheque is repeatedly re-presented and has to be returned again and again, the least likely to cause the most trouble is "return to drawer". The accepted interpretation of this is: "We suggest you contact the drawer and find out if he has any other way of paying you."

Returning cheques creates extra work for the bank, and not surprisingly, the costs incurred are passed on to the



The polite atmosphere of the bank — where overdrawn can damage your reputation

customer. Barclays and the Midland charge £7.50 per cheque, National Westminster charges £8.50, and returns for customers of Lloyds or TSB cost £10 each.

Usually, when cheques are bounced, the account holder is also sent a standardized letter outlining the extent of the overdraft and requesting remedial action.

The tone used in such letters reflects the bank's opinion of the situation, and the charge for the letter may vary accordingly. With Midland, the minimum is £5. Lloyds charges £5.10 and Barclays £5.80, while at TSB it is £10 a letter. National Westminster debits the customer's account with £3.50 for a standardized letter, and £7.50 where a personalized one has been written.

These charges, of course, take the account further into the red — and don't forget that all the banks levy a penal rate of interest on unauthorized overdrafts.

At Barclays and TSB, this is currently base rate plus 12, that is, 23 per cent. Midland and National Westminster on the other hand use a managed rate of 24.5 per cent and 25 per cent respectively, while Lloyds charges 2 per cent per month.

And that's not all. Once an account has dropped out of credit, all debit transactions throughout the quarterly charging period — monthly in the case of Lloyds — have to be paid for. At Barclays, it is 29p per debit. Lloyds 20p, National Westminster 25p and TSB 27p. Midland charges 28p for cheques and standing orders, and 25p for automatic withdrawals and direct debits. Usually, there is also a fixed handling charge of between £2.50 and £3 a quarter, depending on the bank used. It takes only a moment to realize the alarming rate at which these charges can add up. But the cost of going over-

drawn without permission and having your cheques or other debits returned is not only financial. Your image will be instantly tarnished in the eyes of the payee. What is more, the banks tend to have elephantine memories, and your account records will be indelibly amended to show any returned items.

Cheques honoured by agreement

A "one-off" fall from grace may be overlooked, but where a customer has a reputation for going overdrawn without permission, the chances of being granted loans or other credit in the future are seriously jeopardized. Remember, too, that bank references are always sought by finance houses.

Of course, these problems

arise only where a customer creates an unauthorized overdraft. By agreeing a limit on your account with the bank manager — and sticking to it — you can rest assured that your cheques will be honoured, your creditworthiness will remain intact, and, what is more, the interest rate will be considerably lower.

The actual rate charged on agreed overdrafts varies from one bank to another. It also depends on how valuable a customer you are. At the moment, you could expect to be charged in the region of base rate plus between three and seven, that is, 14 to 18 per cent plus an arrangement fee.

Lloyds has recently started a new system, under which the rate is 1.6 per cent a month. National Westminster has also introduced its Credit Zone, whereby a permanent overdraft can be arranged.



The managed rate for this is currently 18.5 per cent, and there is a commission charge of £5 for any quarter in which the facility is used.

But, regardless of whether an overdraft is authorized, customers with Midland and Lloyds cannot avoid the transaction charges. Barclays and TSB, however, will waive these where the average minimum balance during the quarter is £500 or £400, respectively. National Westminster on the other hand, takes 4 per cent of the average credit balance and offsets this against any transaction charges due. Then, if the resultant figure is below £2, it is overlooked.

The moral, therefore, is to avoid an overdraft if you possibly can, and if you can't, spare the time to get it approved. That way you will save money, and your reputation too.

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All the potential rewards of investing in the financial markets of the world, with all the security of successful management in a proven capital investment bond.

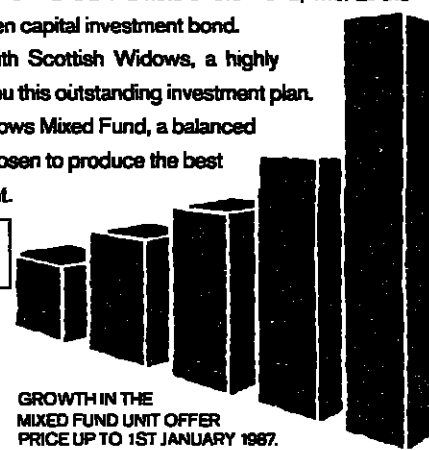
Skipton Building Society has joined with Scottish Widows, a highly reputable life assurance company, to offer you this outstanding investment plan.

Your money will go into the Scottish Widows Mixed Fund, a balanced portfolio of UK and overseas investments, chosen to produce the best results consistent with responsible investment.

CONSISTENT GROWTH

Outstanding growth is the aim of this investment and, as you can see from the bar chart right, that has been achieved.

Of course past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance and it must be remembered that unit values can go down as well as up. But this investment has been consistently successful over the past five years, and there is no foreseeable reason why it should not continue to work hard for you.



GROWTH IN THE
MIXED FUND UNIT OFFER
PRICE UP TO 1ST JANUARY 1987.

YEAR 1 YEAR 2 YEAR 3 YEAR 4 YEAR 5
+24.8% +43.8% +62.7% +92.1% +152.3%

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You can invest any amount from £2,000 upwards, in the Plan. But if you invest £8,000 or more a bonus of 0.5% will be immediately added to your capital. And if your investment is £10,000 or more, you'll get an even bigger bonus of 1.0%.

If you're looking for capital growth in a fund that makes the most of financial opportunities worldwide, complete the coupon below and send it FREEPOST (no stamp needed) to Skipton Building Society.

ONE OF THE TOP TWENTY UK BUILDING SOCIETIES



SKIPTON BUILDING SOCIETY FREEPOST,
SKIPTON BD23 1BR. TELEPHONE: (0756) 4581

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE U.K. MEMBER OF THE BUILDING SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION

CAPITAL GROWTH PLAN

TO THE INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT, SKIPTON BUILDING SOCIETY,
FREEPOST, SKIPTON, NORTH YORKS. BD23 1BR.

Please send me full details of your Capital Growth Plan. I am over 18 years old.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE

T25

The advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe or purchase our shares.

LING

PETER LING DESIGN & BUILD PLC

An attractive BES investment

Up to £100,000 Ordinary shares at £1.00 per share payable in full on application.

Ling is operating to provide building construction including design and build services for its clients. It will also undertake property development on its own behalf. All payments on future contracts will be secured on land and buildings or adequately guaranteed.

Principal features include:

- * A highly experienced management team
- * Substantial business prospects with a contract in hand of £260,000, letters of intent of £242,000 and projects under negotiation of £1,794,000.
- * Intention of public flotation
- * No CGT on first share sale after 5 years

AUSTIN HORN ASSOCIATES

100, New Bond Street, London W1T 9PB.
Telephone: 01-499 0320/0322/0323.

Please send me full details, including a prospectus.

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

Invest with the leader

Lazard Brothers have launched The Seventh Lazard Development Capital Fund, their final BES fund for the 1986/87 tax year.

The Fund's investment policy and the tax concessions of the BES together provide an outstanding investment opportunity for higher rate tax payers.

Total funds raised by Lazard Brothers under the BES now exceed £22.8 million — the largest amount

raised by any manager of approved BES funds — and investments have been made in 43 companies. In the last tax year, Lazard Brothers raised and invested £7 million under the BES, which represented more than 25 per cent. of the total money raised through approved BES funds.

To obtain further details of the Fund, please telephone Jane Lamont on 01-588-2721 or send her the coupon below.

THE ADVANTAGES OF INVESTING IN THE LAZARD DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL FUNDS ARE:

1. The continuing flow of high quality investment proposals
2. The commercial experience of the manager in selecting investments considered to possess both growth potential and security
3. The manager's involvement in monitoring companies which is designed to reduce the risk of losses
4. The well balanced spread of investments
5. The emphasis given to planning the realisation of investments

The application list will close on 9 February 1987 but may be closed earlier at the manager's discretion.

To: Jane Lamont, Lazard Development Capital Limited,
21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT
Please send me a Memorandum describing
The Seventh Lazard Development Capital Fund

Name

Address

T24-1

Postcode

This advertisement does not constitute an invitation to subscribe to the Fund; applications to subscribe will be accepted only on the basis of the terms and conditions set out in the Memorandum describing the Fund.

Investment in unquoted companies carries higher risks as well as the chance of higher rewards.

Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited



"INVESTORS PAYING LESS TAX..?" "...PEPS PRIME MINISTER"

The Chancellor of The Exchequer has introduced a scheme designed to encourage people like you to invest in the Stockmarket by offering attractive tax concessions.

Gartmore's Personal Equity Plan offers investors the opportunity to invest up to £2,400 a year in blue chip UK Companies and a highly successful Gartmore Unit Trust, without paying a penny in Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax.

To find out more, call Jo Durrant free on 0800 289 336 or fill in the coupon and return it to Gartmore.

Gartmore

Jo Durrant
2 St Marys Ave,
London EC3A 8BP



Name

Address

T24/21

FAMILY MONEY/10

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Return at tax rates			Min/max		
	25%	45%	60%	Investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Deposit A/c						
Barclays	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-626 1567
Lloyds	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-626 1500
National Westminster	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-626 1000
Midland	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-626 8000
TSB	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-600 6000
National Girobank	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-600 6020
Fixed Term Deposits:						
National Westminster	7.63	5.91	4.30	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-726 1000
"	7.38	5.72	4.16	10,000-24,999	3 mth	01-726 1000
"	7.38	5.72	4.16	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-726 1000
Midland	8.93	7.46	5.43	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-260 8000
"	9.38	7.27	5.28	10,000-24,999	3 mth	01-260 8000
"	9.25	7.17	5.36	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-260 8000

BUILDING SOCIETIES

Ordinary A/c	6.00	4.65	3.38	1 min		
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MONEY FUNDS

Altkin Home Monthly Income	7.56	5.93	4.32	1,000 min		01-638 6070
Bank Of Scotland	7.56	5.93	4.32	2,500 min		01-626 8060
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.13	5.52	4.02	1,000 min		01-626 1567
Cater Allen Call	7.63	5.91	4.30	10,000 min		01-626 1567
HFC Trust	7.56	5.93	4.32	2,500 min		01-626 2777
Henderson Money Mkt Chq A/c	8.50	6.58	4.79	5,000 min		01-236 8591
L & G High Interest Deposit	7.56	5.93	4.32	2,500 min		01-638 5767
Lloyds HICA	8.15	6.31	4.59	1,000 min	1 mth	01-388 3211
M&G HICA	7.70	5.96	4.34	2,500 min		01-626 1500
Midland HICA	7.56	5.86	4.26	2,500 min		01-626 4588
Net West High Int Special Res	7.45	5.77	4.20	2,000 min		0742 52800
Oppenheimer Money Mgmt A/c	7.70	5.96	4.34	10,000 min		01-726 1000
Royal Bank Of Scotland Prem A/c	7.70	5.96	4.34	10,000 min		01-726 1000
S & P Call	7.75	6.00	4.37	1,000 min	1 mth	01-236 9362
Schroder Wagg	7.85	6.08	4.42	1,000 min	1 mth	01-236 9362
Tullet & Riley Call	7.94	6.14	4.47	10,000 min	1 mth	031-5570201
Tullet & Riley 7-day	7.75	6.00	4.37	2,500 min		0708 66666
Tyndall 7-day	7.48	5.80	4.23	2,500 min	1 mth	0705 827733
Tyndall 7-day	7.36	5.81	4.32	10,000 min	1 mth	01-626 9362
Western Trust	8.05	6.24	4.54	2,500 min	7 day	01-236 9362
	7.91	6.13	4.46	2,500 min	7 day	0272 732241
	7.92	6.14	4.46	2,500 min	7 day	01-626 4661
	7.87	6.10	4.44	2,500 min	7 day	0272 732241
	7.75	6.00	4.37	2,500 min	7 day	01-626 4661
	7.83	6.14	4.47	2,500 min	1 mth	0752 261161

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Investment A/c	8.34	6.46	4.70	5-100,000	1 mth	041-6494555
Income Bond	8.79	6.74	4.90	2,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 66151
Deposit Bond	8.70	6.74	4.90	100-100,000	3 mth	041-6494555
Indexed Income Bond	5.68	4.40	3.20	5,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 66151
32nd Issue Certificate	8.75	6.75	8.75	25-5,000	8 day	0385 64900
Yearly Plan	8.54	6.54	8.54	20-200 a mth	14 day	0385 64900
General Extension Rate	8.70	6.70	8.70			

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

General Portfolio	8.10	7.05	5.13	1,000 min	1 yr	Note *
General Portfolio	8.10	7.05	5.13	1,000 min	2 yrs	Note *
General Portfolio	8.10	7.05	5.13	1,000 min	3 yrs	Note *
Providence Capital	8.25	7.17	5.21	1,000 min	4 yrs	Note *
Pinnacle Insurance (A)	8.25	7.17	5.21	5,000 min	5 yrs	Note *

LOCAL AUTHORITY TOWN HALL BONDS

Reading	7.50	5.81	4.23	1,000 min	1 yr	01-638 6361
Kirkcaldy	8.38	6.49	4.72	500 min	2 yrs	01-638 6361
Kirkcaldy	8.38	6.49	4.72	500 min	3 yrs	01-638 6361
Kirkcaldy	8.38	6.49	4.72	500 min	4 yrs	01-638 6361
Bournemouth	8.25	6.39	4.65	500 min	5 yrs	01-638 6361
Nottingham	8.20	6.35	4.62	500 min	6 yrs	01-638 6361
Nottingham	8.20	6.35	4.62	500 min	7 yrs	01-638 6361
Vale of Glamorgan	6.13	4.75	3.45	500 min	8 yrs	01-638 6361
Telford	6.21	4.81	3.50	1,000 min	9 yrs	01-638 6361
Telford	6.21	4.81	3.50	1,000 min	10 yrs	01-638 6361

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS

Sterling	10.14			7 day	0481 26741
US Dollar	5.36			7 day	0481 26741
Yen	5.35			7 day	0481 26741
D Mark	5.35			7 day	0481 26741
French Franc	5.35			7 day	0481 26741
Swiss Franc	5.35			7 day	0481 26741

*Interest Taxable, paid gross. *Interest rates may differ. *Extra interest accounts usually pay 1-2 per cent above ordinary accounts. *Interest at end of year in line with rate of inflation. *December 1971 figures 355.0. *Returns for higher rate taxpayers may differ according to type of bond and above rates should be taken as a general guide only. *Research: Deborah Dwyer 01-622 9082.

Investors get a call for help

Thousands of investors, mostly in the North, were asked this week to help with the financial situation at the troubled insurance, property and investment group, Charley Davies, by the country's first appointed administrator under the new Insolvency Act.

The legislation, which came into force earlier this month, gives the administrator a mandate to gauge the possibility of a rescue. If he finds it unable to stage a recovery, he recommends to have it wound up.

Ministry of the horror stories for investors that emerged after the collapse of the Canterbury investment house, McDonald Wheeler last summer, investors were keen to know what was going on at Charley Davies when the courts appointed an official administrator, Tony Richmond, of accountants Peat Marwick Mitchell, on January 16.

Mr Richmond disclosed that Charley Davies was carrying a £2.6 million overdraft. His team is working to establish what went wrong and he hopes to give a fuller picture in a few weeks.

But until new financial services legislation is in place later this year, the watchdog body for licensed dealers, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, offers no compensation, leaving Charley Davies' investors in an uncertain position until his financial status clears.

The group's London-based stockbroking subsidiary, Giles and Overbury, which ceased trading on Monday, was found to owe about £3.5 million. How big the deficit will be when settlements are completed is unclear, but any investors' losses will be met by the Stock Exchange compensation scheme.

But all is not gloom for Charley Davies investors. Mr Richmond wants to keep the businesses running where possible, and is promoting management buy-outs while paying back outgoings. Comfort may also be drawn from the fact that the directors sought an administrator, rather than waiting for total collapse.

There are about 4,000 clients with the group's £20 million non-discretionary funds and a much smaller number in its £10 million discretionary fund.

Colin Narbrough

EXTRA UNIT UP TO 5th APRIL

Unit Trust choice simplified

With over nine hundred unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose? In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust, and M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each: Recovery Fund for capital growth, Dividend Fund for an increasing income, and SECOND General for a balance between income and growth.

You should remember that new funds or funds which suffer a change of management are likely to be more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record. M&G's investment team has remained largely unchanged for many years, and our long-term performance record reflects this. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is usually the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective.

We are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more per Fund.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. This means that unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '69	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1970	21,760	8,570	11,020	11,058
1975	26,400	11,121	21,263	16,176
1980	102,560	17,287	40,175	25,521
1985	270,860	49,474	55,233	40,164
1 Jan '87	403,520	58,864	57,172	43,208*

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 1% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

FURTHER INFORMATION On 20th January 1987 offered

	Income	Accumulation	Yield
Recovery Fund	431.5p	565.3p	3.06%
Dividend Fund	474.9p	521.8p	4.80%
SECOND General	523.6p	1,649.6p	3.37%

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The difference between the 'offered' price (at which you buy units) and the 'bid' price (at which you sell) is normally 5p. An initial charge of 5p is included in the offered price and an annual charge of up to 1% of each fund's value - currently 0.4% - plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Income for accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

	Recovery	Dividend	SECOND
Distributions	20 Feb	15 Jan	15 Feb
Next distribution for new investors	20 Aug	15 July	15 Aug
Next distribution for new investors	1987	1987	1987

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Redemption is possible to accountants' rates, which are available on request. The Trustee for Dividend and Recovery is Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wide-range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1PB. Tel: 0245 266266. Advisory Services: 01-626 4558.

Member of the Unit Trust Association.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income and a yield about 50% higher than the F.T. Actuaries All Share Index.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '64	£296	£536	£10,000	£10,000
1970	483	850	10,200	10,200
1975	828	871	16,300	10,000
1980	1,660	1,200	24,260	10,000
1985	2,278	907	66,160	10,000
1 Jan '87	2,680	744*	84,820	10,000

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society income figures are 1% above the average of the rates offered in each year (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Dividend capital figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 30-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1960	18,820	20,050	26,330	11,253
1965	31,320	26,330	13,392	16,093
1970	46,480	30,540	17,143	21,636
1975	79,840	39,620	31,101	31,951
1980	196,400	61,600	62,494	49,931
1985	546,000	178,240	35,918	76,580
1 Jan '87	734,680	209,680	38,934	84,535*

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 1% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G SECOND General figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

All applications received by 5th April 1987 will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund.

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1PB. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of your choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) as ACCUMULATION (units) or DIVIDEND (units) (delete as applicable). Accumulation units will be issued for Recovery and SECOND and income units will be issued for Dividend) at the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

	RECOVERY (MIN £1,000)	DIVIDEND (MIN £1,000)	SECOND (MIN £1,000)
£	-00	-00	-00

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

ICAD _____

THE M&G GROUP

IF YOU'RE INVESTING IN A PERSONAL EQUITY PLAN, SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE BEST FINANCIAL BRAINS?

The Personal Equity Plan from Barclayshare is not just an extremely tax efficient means of buying shares. It also gives you access to all the expertise and experience of the Barclay fund managers.

(Barclayshare is the new stockbroking arm of Barclays, specifically set up for anyone who might want to buy shares in UK companies.)

Invest from £20 a month to £2,400 a year.

The Barclayshare PEP is basically a means of investing in the Stock Market with anything from £20 a month to a lump sum of £2,400.

You can invest a little money in

a PEP every month.

Or you can switch a lump sum from any other savings or investments into a PEP straightaway.

Your money is then directly invested in shares of leading UK companies.

Tax free income and capital gains.

All income and capital gains within the plan are completely free of tax.

Which makes a Barclayshare PEP easily the most tax efficient way to own shares in UK companies.

Let our expert fund managers do the work.

But the real beauty of the scheme is that the investor has nothing to do.

Barclay fund managers will take complete charge of your portfolio, switching investments as and when necessary.

And with no Capital Gains Tax to pay, that's going to be a lot more financially viable now than it has been in the past.

There will be no broker's commission to pay. And we'll send you contract notes after each deal, showing you what we've done and the reasons why.

The Barclayshare Personal Equity Plan, in other words, is a means of building your own professionally managed tax-free share portfolio.

If you'd like to find out more about the Barclayshare Personal Equity Plan, please fill in the coupon below. Or call the Barclayshare Helpline on Watford (0452) 40333.

Special Discount.

A special cash discount, in the form of a reduced first year's management fee, is available for all applications received before 31st January 1987.

Please send this coupon to: Barclayshare Personal Equity Plan, 100, Watford Road, Watford, Herts. WD17 1JH.

Name _____ Address _____

Barclayshare Personal Equity Plan, 100, Watford Road, Watford, Herts. WD17 1JH.

Barclayshare Personal Equity Plan

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FAMILY MONEY

This summer, just switch homes

HOLIDAYS

Your home may be modest, and it may be mortgaged, but make it work for you. Use it to give your family their best ever holiday, says ROSEMARY WELLS

I'm not suggesting you sell it, or take out a second mortgage — nothing nearly so drastic. Swap it! Your reaction to such a suggestion could be to turn the page, but let's look at this in the sober light of a Saturday morning.

You want to take your family to Europe? But you know that even a package tour will probably put you in the red again. You start saving, then you worry about what to do with the house while you are away. Will it be safe? Who will feed the cat? And water the garden?

You also discover the cost of the dog kennels has doubled. The whole project becomes less inviting. Is 1987 going to be your family's year for the great new experience of a holiday at home?

The family do not take readily to the idea — and in fact it is one that can cost you dearly. Think of all those cinema outings and trips to this swimming pool and that theme park that you will be expected to finance in the long summer holidays. Then there are the children's friends who constantly stay for lunch, supper, the weekend... food bills alone could pay for a flight to Majorca.

We faced this problem with a growing family, until one year we exchanged our three-bedroom house in the Home Counties for a similar-sized

home in France. Not a penny changed hands. All we had to find was the cost of our fares which, by ferry or hovercraft with a family squeezed into a not-too-large car, is not that great. That was the total sum of our expenses.

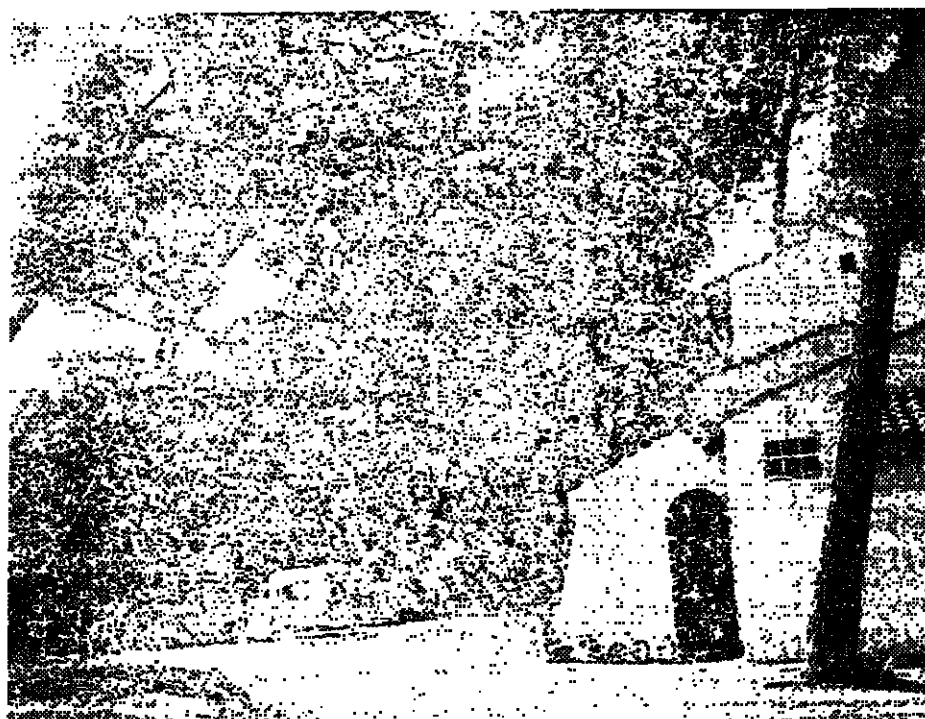
The joy of it all was that I left my house without having to empty the larder and the fridge, left our dog and cat in their familiar surroundings (some families even swap cars if travelling across to the United States or Australia), and had no need to cancel the milk. My only chore was to hand our keys to a neighbour as arranged with our French guests.

Risks involved? No greater than renting your home — and in fact the experience of those who arrange such holidays is that people tend to take far greater care of homes that are exchanged rather than rented! After all, you have their house as surety!

It is a good idea to tell your neighbours who are coming — often they or their children make good friends. And remember to leave your guests a list of local shops, entertainments, sports facilities, doctors and tourist attractions.

They will do the same for you, and that way you get to know their country far better than you would if you stayed in a hotel or on a camp site. Our neighbours in France helped me to find the best markets, allowed our children to pick their cherries and borrow their bikes, made us feel part of the village, and were always ready to help if the boiler failed or the French telephone system flamed us!

Some families advertise and swap their homes privately, but by subscribing to a holiday exchange organization, you



France in summer: all this could be yours for a few weeks under the home-swap scheme

will get a wonderful selection of properties, world-wide and be able to circulate details of your home to thousands of others.

We had offers from the United States and Italy, from Australia and Norway. Some homes were offered with indoor pools, saunas, tennis courts, sailing boats, horses, and live-in maids!

The children fancied a ranch in California, and I admit to being tempted by a luxury flat in Rome. But the idea of this whole enterprise being to economize, we settled for a short journey and a house just nine kilometres from Paris.

We wrote to the family, who turned out to consist of a

husband and wife, both school teachers, with a nine-year-old daughter. We exchanged letters, and they soon became

Suzanne and Alain as though old friends. When we arrived the fridge contained all the basic foods and there was a deliciously ripe cheese and a bottle of wine on the kitchen table.

What a delight it is to holiday in a comfortable home — no worry about hotel meals for children, no queuing up for camp facilities, no being tourists in a pension filled with fellow countrymen.

We spent lazy days in their garden, or walking along the banks of the Seine, and discovered that Paris museums are free on Sundays! The children quickly made friends and our French improved considerably.

The arranging of the exchange is up to you. Write to as many subscribers as you wish select the most mutually attractive, exchange references and discuss final details.

You may not be a family man — in which case you can offer your immaculate flat in exchange for a penthouse apartment in New York.

You may want to make this the holiday of a lifetime — so take advantage of party bookings and fly the whole family, inclusive, to a ranch in southern Spain or western Canada.

Maybe you have five children and a rambling old house in London, so why not exchange it for a rambling old

farm in Wales — a wonderful change for both families, and it will cost you only a tank or so of petrol!

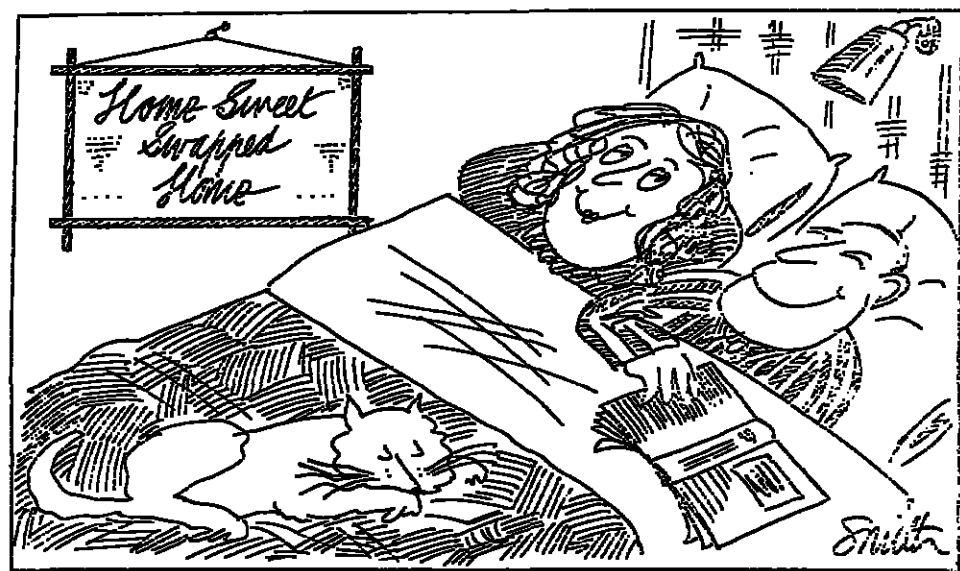
There are other possibilities such as renting, or you can offer bed and breakfast or try weekend exchanges in order to sample an area before buying a holiday villa. Hospitality is another service. This means having paying guests, in which case your home can not only save, but also make you money.

For those with teenagers, there is also a youth hospital-ity service when you offer a cross-cultural experience to a foreign teenager who will reciprocate for your son or daughter.

Once you start thinking of exchange holidays you will become more and more ambitious. And with careful account-keeping you may well find your holiday has cost you even less than you expected — especially if you have chosen a country where food costs less than in Britain.

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For further information: Home Interchange, 8 Hillside, Farmington, Kent DA4 0DD (0322) 864527; Global Home Exchange and Travel Service, 36 The Hall, Foxes Dale, Blackheath, London SE3 (01-3521439); Interchange Holiday, 29 Highfield Road, Derby (0332 43661); International Home Exchange Service, 6 Siddals Lane, Alfreton, Derby (0332 558931).



Smith

Law Report January 24 1987

Medical journalist is given access to documents in Opren claim litigation

Davies v Eli Lilly & Co and Others
Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Bingham
[Judgment January 22]

There was no objection to allowing a medical journalist and writer who possessed a wide general knowledge of medical and scientific specialities and who was also familiar with computerization of documents, but who was not a prospective expert witness, a party to the action or a legal adviser, to conduct inspection of documents disclosed on discovery by the defendants to an action for negligence in the absence of evidence that he was likely to use information so obtained for a collateral purpose in breach of duty.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the plaintiff, Joy Rosalie Davies, against a refusal by Mr Justice Hirst in chambers (The Times August 2, 1986) of an application that Mr Charles Medawar, a medical journalist and writer who was assisting the Opren Action Group in assembling and organizing documents for litigation, should be allowed to inspect the defendants' documents.

Mr David Sullivan, QC and Mr Christopher Carling for the plaintiff; Mr Michael Spencer, QC and Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Mr Justin Fenwick for the defendants.

The Committee on Safety of Medicines and the Department of Health and Social Security.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that over 1,000 litigants had brought individual actions claiming damages for personal injury, or compensation for their treatment with the drug benzofenone, marketed in the United Kingdom as Opren.

The particular order which was the subject of appeal raised an issue which was common to all the actions.

At an early stage it had appeared to the plaintiffs' solicitors that the problem of assembling and organizing the documents would be uniquely difficult because the subject matter was highly technical and involved medical and scientific specialities of many different kinds and because the extent of the documentation would be enormous.

It was thought that the documents would number some 1.2 million.

In those circumstances the plaintiffs' solicitors considered that they needed the assistance of someone who could act as a go-between in their dealings with experts, undertake research designed to identify the relevant experts, analyse evidence given in similar United States proceedings and computerize all that material together with that which would become available on discovery.

They had found Mr Medawar. He had devoted his life to

medical and scientific journalism and had acquired a sufficient knowledge of a wide range of specialities to be able to understand experts and interpret what they said for the benefit of laymen. In addition he was familiar with the art or science of computerization.

The plaintiffs' rights to discovery of all relevant documents was not in issue. Nor was it in issue that they needed someone of Mr Medawar's expertise to assist them. What was in issue was whether the case was being prepared for trial and whether the choice of Mr Medawar would or might deprive them of essential protection from improper use or disclosure of the contents of documents disclosed by them to the plaintiffs.

The Committee on the Safety of Medicines and the Department of Health and Social Security now adopted a wholly neutral attitude. Their only position was that they wished Mr Medawar to give an express undertaking to the court to record the implied obligation of confidentiality which was inherent in his being given access to the documents to be disclosed.

The judge had held that the plaintiffs had established the need for a specialist coordinator, and while accepting that inspection by such a coordinator might be an extension of the categories of permissible inspectors, the categories of permissible inspectors were not closed, and, if there were no other objection, he had jurisdiction to permit inspection by Mr Medawar.

His Lordship agreed that in the exceptional circumstances of the case inspection by Mr Medawar or someone like him was essential if justice was to be achieved, subject to the need to provide proper protection for the defendants.

The real issue was whether to allow inspection by Mr Medawar would deprive the defendants of the essential protection from an abuse of the process of the court. It was an issue of discretion, balancing the needs of the Lilly defendants against those of the plaintiffs.

The discretion was *prima facie* that of the judge at first instance. It had been submitted that the judge had erred in holding that the issue was whether the defendants had a reasonable objection to Mr Medawar, as opposed to whether there was a real risk that if he were permitted to inspect he would use the information for a collateral purpose. If there was any difference, the judge had not erred.

The Court of Appeal had had the benefit of additional evidence, and in the light of that the judge had inadvertently done an injustice both to Mr Medawar personally and to the plaintiffs.

The court had been told that if necessary the solicitors coordinating the actions would enter into a joint contract to employ Mr Medawar in the

capacity of "clerk", albeit a clerk with exceptional qualifications and exceptionally onerous and skilled duties, and that in any event they were wholly content to accept the same responsibility in relation to his duties as they had in relation to anyone in their employ. That was a very impressive tribute of which the judge had been unaware.

The judge had held that Mr Medawar's role as adviser could continue notwithstanding that he could not be allowed to see any of the disclosed documents.

Mr Spencer had supported that, saying that all his knowledge would be passed on to his successor or to solicitors. The new evidence showed that that was an unduly optimistic view.

There was always some risk that solicitors, counsel or expert witnesses might suddenly decide that their higher duty than that owed to their clients, the opposing party or the court compelled them to breach the obligation of confidentiality which they had undertaken.

That very rarely happened. Their *raison d'être* was investigation, discovery and publication. They would readily concede that their duty to inform the public overrode all other duties. That seemed to be an unfounded generalization about the profession of journalism.

It was doubtful whether Mr Medawar was to be regarded as a journalist in any ordinary sense, and certainly not as an investigative journalist. He was a writer on medical and scientific matters in the pharmaceutical industry.

He might be an unwelcome critic of the pharmaceutical industry, but there was no evidence that he was a fanatic or that he was likely to breach the duty of confidentiality which he had expressly acknowledged would exist if he was allowed to inspect the defendants' documents.

The judge had expressly accepted the genuineness of Mr Medawar's undertaking. His fear was that such was Mr Medawar's disapproval of pharmaceutical companies that he might inadvertently view it. In the light of the evidence now available that view could not be accepted.

The appeal should be allowed. In the exceptional circumstances of the litigation it was right to take exception to the order to require the defendants by requiring Mr Medawar to give express undertakings. They were not strictly necessary, otherwise it would not have been right to allow the appeal, but there was no reason to suppose that Mr Medawar would breach his obligations.

Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Bingham delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Owen White, Feltham; Davies Arnold & Cooper; Treasury Solicitor.

Pages of PEPs for the picking

Who is going to be first to publish a book on L'Affaire Guineen? That is the question now being asked in the watering holes of EC3 where the betting among Big Bang survivors is that the book will be called anything but *The Guinness Book of Record Registrations*.

Of more immediate concern to most private investors is: "Who is going to be first to publish a comprehensive guide to personal equity plans?" Well, now we have the answer and most welcome it is too.

Rosemary Burr's 128-page PEPs guide published this week provides details of 38 plans, divided into three categories — advisory, discretionary and unit trusts only. There is a question-and-answer section plus tips on how to assess the wide variety of charges.

It is inevitable that as soon as a PEPs guide is published it becomes out of date. Rosemary Burr's guide includes the *Financial Times* unit PEP, which is officially launched today, but not the new PEP from financial services house Smith & Williamson. This is a discretionary scheme with a fixed investment of £2,400. The idea is that this sum will be split 75-25 as between equities and unit trusts.

PG
* Guide to Personal Equity Plans 1987 available from Rosters Ltd, 60 Welbeck Street, London W1; £3.99 plus 30p for p&p, or direct from W.H. Smith and leading bookshops

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TSB	11.00%
Citibank NA	11.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

Power to grant leave to serve writ outside jurisdiction

Islamic Arab Insurance Co v Saudi Egyptian American Reinsurance Co
Before Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Bingham
[Judgment January 21]

On an application for leave to serve a writ out of the jurisdiction under Order 11, rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, the court had jurisdiction to grant leave if the plaintiff showed a good arguable case that the claim was in respect of a contract made within the jurisdiction or that the English law was the proper law of the contract.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Islamic Arab Insurance Co, from a decision of Mr Justice Slynn on April 9, 1986.

Mr Jeremy L. Cooke for the plaintiffs; the defendants, the Islamic Arab Insurance Co, were represented by Mr Kendrick for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE PARKER said that the plaintiff was granted leave *ex parte* to issue a writ against the defendants, Saudi Egyptian American Reinsurance Co, and to serve it on them out of the jurisdiction.

The writ claimed a sum of money allegedly due under a fire reinsurance treaty and an engineering reinsurance treaty respectively.

The defendants applied to set aside the writ. The judge ordered that all further proceedings be stayed conditional upon the Saudi Arabian courts assuming jurisdiction.

The plaintiffs appealed. Two questions arose for decision: (a) whether the claim fell within any of the paragraphs of Order 11, rule 1 so as to give the court jurisdiction to give leave to serve out of the jurisdiction; and (b) whether, if so, it was a proper case in which to exercise that jurisdiction in favour of the plaintiffs.

The judge held that there was a good arguable case that the contracts were made in England and thus that there was jurisdiction to give leave to serve out of the jurisdiction. He rejected the other two

grounds relied on by the plaintiffs to found jurisdiction holding that the contracts were governed by the law of Saudi Arabia, not by English law, and that no breach within the jurisdiction had been established.

The plaintiffs challenged the judge's finding with regard to the proper law of the contract and the defendants, by respondent's notice, challenged his finding with regard to the place where the contracts were made contending that they were made in Saudi Arabia.

The plaintiffs asserted that, although the reinsurers were agreed in principle by Telex and oral exchanges between the representatives of the parties in Saudi Arabia, the contract was made in London.

The defendants on the other hand contended that the Telex and oral exchanges in Saudi Arabia constituted a binding contract made there.

The judge considered that the defendants' arguments were cogent but concluded on balance that the plaintiffs had a good arguable case that the contract was made in England. His Lordship agreed.

The defendants further contended that even if the contract was technically made in London there was no jurisdiction unless the case was not only within the letter but also within the spirit of Order 11, rule 1.

His Lordship did not accept that. It was clear that there was jurisdiction provided that the case fell within the letter of one of the paragraphs, if, however, the case, albeit within the letter of one of the sub-paragraphs, was not within the spirit of the rule it would be a powerful, if not conclusive, reason for refusing to exercise jurisdiction in favour of the plaintiffs.

The parties had advanced cogent arguments respectively for the proper law being on the one hand English, and on the other hand Saudi Arabian law. With respect to the judge's decision as to proper law was not, in his Lordship's view, a

matter which arose on an application such as the present.

The question was whether the plaintiffs had a good arguable case that English law was the proper law. If they had, then there was jurisdiction to give leave. It might well be that there was also a good arguable case for some other law being the proper law, but that if the action went forward that case would prevail at the trial.

That was not to the point, at all events, unless it was clear that the question of proper law could not be further illuminated at the trial. In the present case it clearly could. His Lordship was satisfied that the plaintiffs made out a good arguable case for English law.

Although the court would hesitate to interfere with the judge's discretion, the defendants had radically changed since the judge exercised his discretion in the present case. It was plain from both his judgment and the formal order that he was concerned that the action should not be finally terminated unless and until the Saudi Arabian courts had accepted jurisdiction and the defendants had submitted to such jurisdiction.

Such courts had not done so and the judge's discretion, the defendants had signed a deed of submission to the jurisdiction of such courts five days after the judge's judgment, they wrote a letter which was a clear admission that England was, of the two places contended for before the court, the forum in which the case could be suitably tried for the interests of all parties and for the ends of justice.

It had a specialist court and specialist lawyers which it was common ground Saudi Arabia had not.

His Lordship had no doubt that it was a proper case for giving leave and would allow the appeal, set aside the judge's order and allow the action to proceed.

Lord Justice Bingham delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Clifford-Turner, Baker & McKenzie.

Minister perverse over TV licence

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Kirklees Borough Council

The Home Secretary's refusal to issue television broadcast receiving licences at the concessionary rate of 5p in respect of retired persons of pensionable age in "accommodation for residential care", as defined in paragraph (1)(b) of Schedule 2 to the Wireless Telegraphy (Broadcast Licence Charges and Exemption) Regulations (SI 1984 No 1053) and which was provided by a local authority under Part V of the Housing Act

1957, on the basis that the authority's provision of a housing steward, responsible for the welfare of the occupants of the accommodation, had to be a facility exclusive to such persons, was unreasonable and perverse.

Mr Justice Taylor so held in the Queen's Bench Division on January 23 when he allowed the local authority's application for the secretary of state's refusal, by letter dated February 18, 1985, not to issue the television licences at the concessionary rate in respect of Nos 7, 29 and

33 Roman Close, The Mount, Huddersfield.

MR JUSTICE TAYLOR said the words of Schedule 2 were directed to the facilities in fact provided for such persons and for the common use of all the occupants of the dwellings, and that there was nothing to say in Schedule 2 whether the primary role was of importance.

The secretary of state's conclusion that the primary function of the housing steward was the management of the local authority's whole housing stock had no evidential basis, and in any event, there was nothing to say in Schedule 2 whether the primary role was of importance.

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Two full tanks of talent faced with the ultimate efficiency endurance on turf

Suburbanites take to the city

SIMON BARNES
AT SUPER BOWL
XXI

Pasadena

Look, this is the Superbowl. There are hundreds of us scribblers here, reading round and round the Anaheim Marriott Hotel, with Pasadena just a 50-back ride away, drinking coffee, eating doughnuts, reading duplicated lists of quotes, and every one of us is trying to find something really interesting to say about the men of the Denver Broncos and the New York Giants who will be bashing each other up tomorrow.

That is why Lawrence "The Terminator" Taylor, the Giants' defender, has become the fiercest man ever to exist, and why John Elway, the Broncos' quarterback, is the most golden youth ever to throw a football. Thousands of wordsmen are out here straining every sinew to turn real men into walking myths. And we're all doing a grand job. But the truth of the matter is that the quality most likely to win the Superbowl is efficiency.

Superbowl games tend to be terrible and inevitable fops and plebeian virtues of the game's journeyman are those that are most likely to decide the outcome. The men with mythical talents tend not to do the business in the actual game.

The journalists have tried and tried to find a concept that will make the New York Giants' attack spring to life on the page. It has been a long, hard struggle, but in the end, we have come up with a cracker. What makes the New York offense different is that they're really boring. "We're the kind of guys who go back to our homes in the suburbs, the stockbroker types," said Chris Godfrey, guard, 6ft 3in and 18st 3lb. "We're the kind of guys whose moms used to drive us to practice in the suburban wagon."

The New York offense isn't called the Mean Machine or the Wild Men or anything like that. They tend to get called the "Suburbanites". And the arch-suburbanite, the most boring man in the entire team, is the man who should be the star — the quarterback, Phil Simms. "I am not pretty or exciting," he said. "I am just a lumpy sort of guy. Elway, on the other hand — he is an exciting quarterback."

Simms does not see himself as an executive at all. Just one of the boys. The blue-collar quarterback back in the team of workers. The Giants' coach, Bill Parcells, like to talk about the work ethic, and how much weight lifting the team do. The Giants defy normal practice and hump lots of weights not only in pre-season preparation but during the season itself. They would. "When they say that all he thinks about is weights, I think it's a compliment," Parcells said.

This is a salt-of-the-earth attacking line-up. The Broncos have their Class superstar Elway, but the Giants are all in storage. In fact, the more you read about the Superbowl the more you become convinced that the Broncos only have one player in the side. Unlike normal teams, they don't have 45 players, just one. In a No 7 jersey. The golden boy: if he is hot, the Broncos will do something; so says everyone.

But in truth, the key quarter back is Simms of the giants. The boring one. The mucker-in. "He lifts weights with us," one of his journeymen colleagues said, quite entranced by the notion. Simms doesn't cruise around with an easy smile on his face. He looks amiable enough but rather apologetic. "I'll always get criticised. I'll always get that, because I am not pretty. But I think I've been effective. It all depends on what's expected of a quarter back. We have a great defense, so I am not called on to force the ball."

But the point that must not be missed about Simms is that he has quietly been getting better and better all season. The renowned New York defense carried the team to their narrow early season wins, which included a three-point defeat of the Broncos. Most of the attacking



Small talk: Joe Morris, short by The Giants' standards at 5ft 7in, takes a press conference all in his stride.

work was done by the running back, Joe Morris. But Parcells has been encouraging Simms to be more aggressive and ambitious. "He said if we want a five yard game, we'll give it to Joe," Simms said. "He said I want you to throw and throw deep." The results have been spectacular. He has been throwing better and better. In the divisional play-off game against San Francisco, he set a club record with four touch down passes, and set up the greatest winning margin in the club's play-off history.

Simms will have another terrific work alongside him. A man who will probably do more work for anyone else on the field. This is Morris, running back and weight training fanatic. Johnson is 5ft 7in, 14st, and

has all the poison dwarf's anger against the universe, remorseless and efficient. It is the way Superbowl is too big for inspiration. The Giants inspire respect. They do not stir the blood. But the Broncos — or to put it in other words, Elway — know what it is to perform the occasional miracle. "We want to go out and have some fun," Elway said, smiling his golden, pop-eyed smile. The fun could include some of the silly trick play with which the Broncos have infuriated opponents over the season. In one of these they had the half-back toss out a touchdown pass — to Elway the quarter back. In the season the Broncos have thrown passes from half backs, side receivers — and yes the punter. The promise that they have four or five of these "gadget-plays" for possible use tomorrow.

Perhaps their greatest chance is not in the golden arm of Elway, but in his golden legs. He has a spectacular ability to improvise, to scramble, to dodge and run. He reacts fast when play breaks down, to make the yardage himself or to throw from an unconventional and undefended angle. "I never go into a game planning to scramble," he said. "But it's been part of my game since high school. That's when the game is fun. It's a street game then. Anything can happen." Taylor of the Giants, the most feared thumper of quarter backs in the NFL, said: "He's like a running back who also happens to throw the ball. The problem isn't getting into the pocket, it's if he's still there when you arrive."

Taylor reckons Elway is the best scrambling quarter back in the NFL. "Elway is the key to their offense. Lose that key and you're not going to open many doors." And Elway — "stop talking about John Elway! I am about to fall in love with the guy!"

The contest is between the possibility of inspiration, improvisation and the odd piece of trickery — and the certainty of the work ethic. Solid, inevitable and boring virtues are favoured to win this mega-occasion by giving us a solid and less than brilliant game. Unless... unless... this turns out to be a day for the romantics. The game will have a certain something for as long as that hope remains alive.

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SUPERBOWL FACTS AT A GLANCE

TEAMS
DENVER BRONCOS: Starting defense: 75: R Jones; 77: G Kragen; 81: A Townsend; 82: J Ryan; 77: K Mecklenburg; 98: R Hunley; 57: T Jackson; 20: L Wright; 51: M Hardin; 42: D Smith; 22: A Lilly. Starting offense: 62: V Johnson; 70: D Studdard; 54: K Bishop; 64: W Bryan; 63: M Cooper; 76: K Larner; 89: O Mobley; 81: S Watson; 47: G Whitner; 23: S Winder; 7: J Elway; 3: R Harris.
NEW YORK GIANTS: Starting defense: 75: G Martin; 64: J Burt; 70: L Marshall; 58: C Banks; 65: R Parsons; 58: H Carson; 58: Taylor; 34: E Patterson; 23: P Williams; 45: K Hill; 27: H Welch. Starting offense: 68: L Manuel; 80: B Benson; 67: W Aird; 65: B Oates; 61: C Godfrey; 62: K Nelson; 62: M Bayaro; 81: S Robinson; 28: J Morris; 44: M Carthon; 11: P Simms; 2: R Allegre.

THE EVENT: Super Bowl XXI, the championship game of the National Football League. The winning team takes permanent possession of a Vince Lombardi Trophy, named for the late, legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers, who won the first two Super Bowls (1967, 1968).

PARTICIPANTS: New York Giants v Denver Broncos. The Giants (16 wins, two defeats) won the National Conference East division title in the regular season. In the play-offs they defeated the San Francisco 49ers 49-3 and the Washington Redskins 17-0 to reach the NFC title. The Broncos (13 wins, five defeats) won the American Conference West division title in the regular season. In the play-offs they defeated the New England Patriots 22-17 and the Cleveland Browns 22-20 — the latter in overtime — to win the AFC title.

WEIGHTY MATTERS: Denver are the NFL's lightest team. New York are the league's heaviest. The Broncos average 15st 12lb, the Giants 18st 5lb. The New York offensive line averages 18st 5lb compared with Denver's defensive line of 18st 5lb. The Giants' defensive line outweighs the Broncos' offensive line 18st 5lb to 18st 11lb.

FITNESS REPORT: Both teams are free of injury.
VENUE: Rose Bowl stadium, Pasadena, California. Capacity: 101,500 (all seats).
Pitch: grass. The Rose Bowl hosted the Super Bowl in 1977, 1980 and 1983.
TELEVISION: Live coverage begins on Channel 4 at 11pm tomorrow. Barring overtime, the game will end at approximately 2.15am. The commentators will be Frank Gifford and John Smith. Channel 4 will televise an hour of highlights beginning at 5pm on Monday.

PRIZE MONEY: More than 2,500 reporters are covering the game.
OVERTIME: If the scores are level at full-time (60min), the game will continue in "sudden death" overtime. The side which scores first — by touchdown, field goal or safety — will be the winner. After a three-minute interval at the end of regulation time, play will carry on for 15-minute periods, with two-minute intervals. Teams will change goals after each period.

OFFICIALS: Seven officials will regulate the game on the pitch; the scoreboard clock will indicate the official time.
COLORS: New York, designated the home team, will wear their blue jerseys; Denver, designated the away team, will wear their white jerseys.

MONEY: Each player on the winning side will get \$36,000 (about £24,000) and each player on the losing side will get \$18,000 (£12,000). For a total distribution of approximately \$3.2 million (£2.1 million).
ATTENDANCE: 1,511,277 supporters, an average of 81,554, have attended the Super Bowl since 1967. The largest crowd is 103,993 at the Rose Bowl stadium in 1980 (Super Bowl XIV).

LAST YEAR: Super Bowl XX: Chicago Bears (NFC) 45, New England Patriots (AFC) 10, at the Superdome in New Orleans.
NEXT YEAR: Super Bowl XXII: AFC champions v NFC champions at San Diego.

Compiled by Robert Kirby

RUGBY UNION

Worthing seek benefit from inside information

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The gloom caused earlier in the week by the weather has lifted to allow the bulk of today's John Player Special Cup third-round ties to be played, even if persistent fog in the south will cause some spectators eye strain.

The only loss is at Roehampton where Reading Park have put back their tie with Leicester to next Saturday because the frost has not yet gone from their pitch.

Perhaps Wakefield's experience is typical of many: on Monday evening their opponents, their chairman, looked at six inches of snow, amid freezing temperatures, at College Grove, and discussed the possibility of arranging a game in the West Country. At midday on Thursday the sun came out and the pitch was playable and the game was happily able to give Harlequins the go-ahead for their journey to Yorkshire.

Harlequins have had to make a late change in their front row, bringing Martin Hobbie in at tight-half prop because of an ankle injury to Paul Curtis. Saracens, too, will probably have to make a late change for their game with Old Reptarians but for an entirely different reason.

A car containing two members of the club's coaching panel was involved in a road accident returning from training on Thursday night and David

McLagan, their leading try-scorer, suffered a whiplash injury which almost certainly means his withdrawal.

Happily there were no further injuries so Mark Evans can take his place at hooker. Piers Wood will replace McLagan. Steve Hancock, who has not had the best of luck with his hamstring this season, will play at full back and Saracens, though they are without John Howe at lock, will hope to have enough possession to bring the best out of John Beaton, their excellent centre. Reptarians, who will play Steve Pilgrim, the England Schools international, on the wing, are one of five so-called junior clubs hoping to win through to Monday's draw at Twickenham. At the risk of destroying whatever reputation your correspondent has as a field would appear to possess possibly the best chance at St Helens, where they play Liverpool.

Reading will be far from disheartened to know that Steve Thomas is back at Coventry's scrum half because they regard him as a known quantity and will make allowances for his understanding with Graham Robbins. Their unbeaten record stands or falls today.

Worthing have intelligence provided by a couple of former London Scots, Derek Rae and John Forrest, to help against London Scottish at Richmond

and protect a playing record including only three defeats. "We're bang in form and if we play to our strength we can celebrate the biggest day in Sussex club rugby history with a win," Mike Perring, Worthing's chairman, said.

Paviors, the Nottinghamshire club which seems to revolve round the Rossin family — father Ron is president, sons Clive and Colin players — have had a neighbourly hand from Nottingham, where they have been scrumming this week in preparation for their tie with London Welsh, whose captain, Colin Price, has withdrawn because of chickenpox.

Nottingham themselves only heard yesterday that Chris Ott, their wing, would be released by Cambridge University for the week at Lymington. There is a good understanding between Nottingham and Cambridge and the university have recognised that Ott's hopes of playing for England B will be improved by appearing in Nottingham's ranks.

For the squad of players who should have done duty for England in the postponed Cullcutta Cup match last weekend, there will be no chance to relax, win or lose today. The national squad meet this evening for training at the Stoop Memorial ground in north London in preparation for the game on February 7 against Ireland.

Thomas given task of stopping Davies

By Gerald Davies

The sweet anticipation of the third round Schweppes Cup match between Neath and Llanelli today, both of whom, on their day, can provide the best of the game can offer — the fine touches as well as the aggressive power — is somewhat marred by the thought that one of them will be too hastily dismissed, a couple of stages, at least, too early in the competition.

Whatever the parochial interest is elsewhere, it is the big game throughout the land and, as some might have fondly hoped, had the makings of the final itself. But such is the way of things.

Both teams would appear to be at full strength although Llanelli have sprung a surprise by choosing Kevin Thomas at stand-off half. Ben Childs had appeared to have made a difference to their play, printing his three quarters more accurately than Thomas managed earlier in the season when Llanelli were going through such a sticky patch.

If the inclusion of Thomas means a little more of the boot, then Llanelli might play a game more foreign to their nature. No such fears for Neath with Jonathan Davies in the number 10 position, and whose presence, if the point needs to be laboured, has the versatility to open all the options.

Despite his allegiance to the other club in the town, Neath Athletic, for whom he is treasurer, the match will be refereed by Clive Norling.

Stand-off could play a crucial role for Swansea, too, who travel for a tough tie against Maesteg. Anthony Clement, still a teenager, takes over the position usually of Malcolm Dacey who will play at centre, a position some have advocated he should occupy in the Welsh team.

The only two small clubs remaining in the competition are Llanharan and University College, Swansea and, sadly, for the sentimentalists who might harbour some wishful thoughts for the underdog, they have been drawn away against the might of Cardiff and Newport. Despite the absence of Alan Phillips, their captain and hooker, and the redoubtable John Scott, at No 8, nothing is going to upset the books at Arms Park nor at Rodney Parade where Newport are, suddenly, a force again.

Brigand will be too powerful for Bridgend, no doubt, but it is anybody's guess what will happen at Pontypriod who face South Wales Police, Pontypriod who are at home to Aberavon, and Glamorgan Wanderers who take on Carmarthen, none of whose form can give any guidelines.

SCHWEPSES CUP FIXTURES: Third round: Pontypriod v South Wales Police; Cardiff v Llanharan; Bridgend v Elvanor; Newport v University College, Swansea; Pontypriod v Aberavon; Glamorgan Wanderers v Newbridge; Neath v Llanelli; Maesteg v Swansea.

A sting remains in the tail of the receding adverse weather. Blackheath, who were due to play Headingly today in a John Smith's merit table B game — the only merit table game of the day were forced to call it off yesterday because melting snow had left a considerable amount of water on a Rectory field playing surface still affected by frost (David Hands writes).

The teams were to play a hard match. "Dodge said yesterday, 'but at least it gives me time to settle back in before we play the cup tie'."

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There has been a silver lining to the weather clouds for Metropolitan Police, however. Their excellent playing surface at Finchley Road has brought them a first game, within memory, with Leicester, whose cup match with Rosslyn Park had to be postponed.

Leicester will welcome the run-out for a side which includes six internationals, among them the former England captain, Paul Dodge, who has recovered from a broken finger sustained in last month's first round of the divisional championship to play in a "hard match." Dodge said yesterday, "but at least it gives me time to settle back in before we play the cup tie."

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and protect a playing record including only three defeats. "We're bang in form and if we play to our strength we can celebrate the biggest day in Sussex club rugby history with a win," Mike Perring, Worthing's chairman, said.

Paviors, the Nottinghamshire club which seems to revolve round the Rossin family — father Ron is president, sons Clive and Colin players — have had a neighbourly hand from Nottingham, where they have been scrumming this week in preparation for their tie with London Welsh, whose captain, Colin Price, has withdrawn because of chickenpox.

Nottingham themselves only heard yesterday that Chris Ott, their wing, would be released by Cambridge University for the week at Lymington. There is a good understanding between Nottingham and Cambridge and the university have recognised that Ott's hopes of playing for England B will be improved by appearing in Nottingham's ranks.

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Wakefield strengthen Cup squad

By Michael Stevenson

Perhaps today's most captivating John Player Cup third round tie in the north is at College Grove where Wakefield, who recently conceded 50 points to Waterloo, entertain the talented and successful Harlequins.

Certainly the visitors will kick off as favourites but they will be well advised not to underestimate Wakefield who since their nadir have been encouraged by some improved form and today will be greatly strengthened by the return of Bryan Grey, their England centre, after a long lay-off through injury and the dynamic Mike Harrison whose representative commitments have curtailed his club appearances to four.

David Heron, the captain and prop, and Mark Rawley, a very capable No 8, also return after injury. Wakefield, with a home advantage and a proven cup record, will be desperately keen to refute the form book but it will be a major triumph if they win.

Across the Pennines, Sale entertain their great rivals Orrell who field a formidable partnership in the centre where the England internationals Fran Clough and John Carleton play alongside each other.

Phil Gee, a talented utility back, is chosen on the left wing for Sale with Hywel Benjamin moving into the centre and the locks, Ian Ballough and Mike Thomas, replacing Sale's Scottish B forward Ian McKie to the replacement bench.

The result may hinge upon Orrell's superior class at centre pitted against Sale's greater mobility forward and particularly strength in the back row.

The visit of the current northern "champions" Waterloo to the Great North Road ground may bring the best out of Gosforth but it will be a considerable surprise if they manage to win. Jim Syddall, Waterloo's England lock, is back after holiday and doubtless he and his seven hungry colleagues in the Waterloo pack will be pounding after the valleys of high, attacking kicking propelling the halves, Dave Carfoot and Ian Aitchison.

Lastly Lichfield, one of the most successful emergent, junior sides in the country, may find Liverpool St Helens' class outside the scrum too much for them at Moss Lane.

side plays against Nottingham, who have a lock rather than flanker. Thornley play on the blind side.

London Welsh v Paviors
Howard Evans takes over from the injured Price as stand-off and goalkicker with Greg Thomas at centre for Welsh, who have Llewellyn and Llewellyn returning to the side.

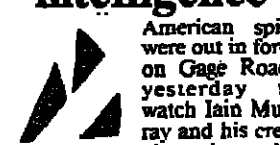
Coventry v Worthing
Coventry's forwards are at strength and Thomas partners Millerchip at half back against a Worthing side for whom Cookley (stand-off) and O'Connor (wing) have scored two-thirds of their aggregate points.

London Irish v Richmond
The presence of three internationals hitherto unavailable for long periods — Gibson, McCall and Cordell — will lift the Irish. Richmond beat them a fortnight ago, not by many, and held the same side with Drane at centre.

Terry Sullivan, the former world champion, was eliminated in the quarter-final by Llanelli's Alan McCarthy, who now faces Simon Evans (Pembroke), in the semi-finals. The other semi-final pairs Swansea's John Price the Welsh champion, against Mike Kent (Ogwr).

YACHTING

American spy fleet gather 'intelligence'



America's Cup defence hope, Kookaburra III, set out on a well-heralded trial sail against Chris Dickson's beaten challenger, New Zealand IV.

Two of the Kookaburra chase boats, aptly named Vulture and Buzzard, did their best to shield the two dualists from the hoard of boats carrying public, press and TV crews, but they could not stop the avid on-lookers from taking of the American coach Robert Hopkins, in the Stars and Stripes rubber inflatable steered by design co-ordinator, John Marshall.

Later, even Dennis Conner got in on the act when both Stars and Stripes 85 joined the party, packing themselves against the two trials.

The degree of interest from the media, public and opposition made a complete mockery of any quiet trialing planned between the two crews and if the American 12-metre hook up in further trials planned over the weekend, Conner and his crew are likely to gain as much from Kookaburra's performance against New Zealand as Murray can expect to learn about Stars and Stripes from Dickson and his crew.

Thorburn aims for a treble

By Sydney Friskin

Cliff Thorburn, of Canada, has a chance to achieve the unique record of winning the Benson and Hedges Masters title for the third year in a row when the event starts at the Wembley Conference Centre tomorrow.

Since the tournament began in 1975 only Alex Higgins (1978 and 1981) and Thorburn have won the title more than once. Both have seen little of the limelight in recent months, although Thorburn retained the Langs Scottish Masters title with a 9-8 victory over Higgins in the final in September and went on to reach the final of the BCE International tournament at Stoke-on-Trent where he lost 12-9 to Neal Foulds.

The favourite on recent form is Steve Davis, the winner so far of the Canadian Masters title, the Tennent's UK championship, the Hofmeister World Doubles championship (with Tony Meo) and the Mercantile Credit Classic. He faces a possible quarter-final meeting with Jimmy White, whom he defeated 13-12 at Blackpool recently in the Mercantile Credit event.

Davis has won the Masters title only once, in 1982, when he defeated Terry Griffiths 9-5 in the final. Higgins has a first round meeting with Griffiths in the same half of the draw.

Making his first appearance in the tournament is Rex Williams, the chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association.

provisional results — a vital factor in determining team strategy — it is not coincidental that Mart

SUNDAY

CHOICE

CHANNEL 4

9.25 Sunday East. Magazine programme for Asian viewers. Followed by *Newsline*. Drama serial set in a Pakistani village.

10.00 The World This Week. This week's guests include Abba Eban, Dr Yusuf Alexander, Sir Anthony Parsons, and Nadia Hjjab, who discuss what the West can do to restore order in the Middle East.

11.00 Worzel Gummidge. (r)
11.30 The Watsons.
Episode 14, 12.30 The Tube. (r)

2.00 Pops. A programme for children.

2.30 Viva Verona: Attila. Verdi's opera recorded at the Arena di Verona. It tells the story of the downfall of the fifth-century king of the Huns but attempts to persuade Europe was thwarted when he tried to conquer Rome. The Russian bass Evgeny Nestrenko sings the role, with Maria Carrol, Maria Chiara, Mariano Luchetti, Francesco Memo, and Andrea Brunelli. The Chorus and Orchestra of the Arena di Verona are conducted by Nello Sant.

4.30 Sunday By the Sea 'A London family enjoys the delights of Southend, accompanied by music ball songs.

4.45 Gardeners' Calendar includes an unearthing of the mysteries of peat-based compost.

5.15 News summary and weather followed by *The Business Programme*. John Plender talks to Sir Patrick Nell, author of the report on self-regulation at Lloyds, and to Peter Miller, Chairman of Lloyd's.

6.00 Australian Rules Football introduced by Gary Davey. Followed by NFL updates. The latest news from the Rose Bowl Stadium, the scene of tonight's Super Bowl.

7.15 The World at War. Part eight - The Desert wars of 1940 - 1943. (Oracle) (r)

8.15 State of the Art. Part three of the series on the visual arts in the 1980s deals with the people who create art.

9.15 A Fortunate Life. Episode three of the four-part Australian drama serial about Bert Facer, a farmer struggling to achieve happiness against all the odds. (Oracle)

11.00 Super Bowl XXV. Live coverage of the game at the Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena, between New York Giants and Denver Broncos. Ends at approximately 3.40.

Radio 3

presented by Rodney Milnes.
 (4) The Exercise of
 Power
 6.40 Liszt and the Piano:
 Rodney Milnes
 transcriptions, paraphrases
 and reminiscences.
 Includes works by
 Beethoven (Adelaide),
 Schumann (Widmung;
 Frühlingsnacht),
 Mendelssohn (Auf Flügeln
 des Gesanges;
 Frühlingslied), and Chopin
 (Six Polish Songs)
 7.30 Art Rubinstein
 Memorial Concert: from
 the Royal Festival Hall. BBC
 SO (under Penderecki),
 with BBC Symphony Chorus
 and soloists Mariana

4a: Passacalle in 1

wiesław Ochman (tenor), and Kurt Rydl (bass). The first performance of Penderecki's Requiem

9.10 The Eyes of the Lord: Clive Merrison reads Frank Williams's translation of Evgeny Popov's story

9.30 Medici String Quartet: first broadcast performance of William Mathias's Quartet No 3. Also Mozart's Quartet in D, K 498, and Schubert's Quartet in A minor, D 804

11.10 Czech Piano Music: Shelagh Sutherland plays Janacek's On an overgrown path, Book 1, and Martinu's Borova, Seven Czech Dances

11.57 News, 12.00 Closedown

Radio A

Son. A serial in six parts
by John Fletcher (4) (s)
9.30 The Press Barons.

WORLD SERVICE
6 00 Always desk (until 6 30) 7 00 N

Independent.

9.55 Weather: Travel
10.00 News; German Election
Specials from Bonn
11.00 Special of Faith: The Case
Against Christ. The Rev
John Young examines
reasons for belief in God.
11.15 In Committee. A weekly
look at the work of
Parliament's select
committees.

12.00 Weather 12.33 Shipping
VHF (available in England and
S Wales only) as above
except: 5.55-5.00am Weather;
Travel 7.10-7.55 Open
University: 7.10 Living with
technology: Values 7.30
Into the Open: Completing the
course 7.30 Music
7.55-8.00am 1.55-2.00am
Programme News 4.00-
4.00 Options 4.00 On the Cut.
Six programmes recalling
recent work on the English
canals 4.30 Not So Long
Ago: 4. The Algerian War 5.00
Deutsch Express! A
sensual dance German course
6.30-6.30 Buongiorno Italia!
(14)

Radio 3: 1215kHz/247mVHF-90.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1:1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m;VHF-90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz/1500m; VHF-92-95; LBC:1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF95.8; BBC Radio London: 1458kHz/206m; VHF 94.9; World Service: MF 648kHz/463m.

SPORT

Confusion reigns as Liverpool reject Statham

By Steve Bates and Dennis Shaw

Derek Statham's £250,000 transfer from West Bromwich Albion to Liverpool fell through last night amid confusion surrounding the player's fitness.

Snapped up in midweek as replacement to Jim Beglin, Liverpool's Republic of Ireland full back who broke a leg in Wednesday's Littlewoods Cup semi-final victory over Everton, Statham was expected to make his debut today at home to Newcastle United.

After agreeing terms with both the player and his second division club, the League champions were set to complete the signing yesterday subject to the formality of a medical. But a day of activity ended in the 27-year-old former England player leaving Anfield without a contract.

With an agitated Statham by his side, Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, said: "We've still not finalized negotiations with West Brom, so obviously he cannot play at the moment. We are still negotiating with them and that's all I can say."

But Andy Williamson, a League spokesman, confirmed

the deal was off. He said: "We have been notified by Liverpool that they are not proceeding with the transfer on medical grounds. The forms are being returned to Anfield."

Although the League had accepted Statham's registration, Williamson said: "We have the 48 hours rule so that formalities, including a player's medical examination, can be completed. We hold all transfer registrations until we have received confirmation that the buying club is happy. Unfortunately, on this occasion, that is not the case."

More football, page 40

Since an Achilles tendon operation in the summer, Statham — who described the proposed transfer as a "dream move... a chance to win some medals" — has played only twice in the first team, out of position in midfield. He was recalled for the 1-1 draw with Sheffield United at Bramall Lane on January 3 and judged himself "95 per cent match fit". He then played in a shock cup defeat at Swansea and showed no adverse reaction from his injury.

Despite yesterday's about-turn Ron Saunders, Albion's manager, has not given up hope that the deal will go through. He said: "Negotiations are at a very delicate stage. I have spoken to Statham on the telephone. He will not play for Liverpool tomorrow, nor will he play for us. He's very mixed up and tells me his mental attitude would not be right and I agree."

The ball is now in Albion's court. They are likely to suggest a reduced fee or a payment scheme based on instalments as Statham progressively proves his fitness.

Statham is the second Albion player to have suffered a shock rejection on medical grounds. In November 1971, Don Revie, then manager of Leeds United, agreed to pay £155,000 for Asa Hartford — but hours before Hartford was to have made his debut, the Elland Road club withdrew. It later transpired that Hartford had a minute hole in his heart, but after rigorous hospital checks was given the go-ahead to resume his career with Albion.



Fear masked on the Hahnenkamm: Müller lives up to his number in yesterday's practice

Howe has a berth at Bristol

The England coach Don Howe, the former Arsenal manager, is joining Bristol Rovers on a part-time basis and will work with the third division club's players when not required by England.

The news will come as a relief to England's manager Bobby Robson, who recently failed to persuade the Football Association to appoint Howe as his full-time assistant. Robson feared that decision would force Howe to look abroad for work.

The Rovers' manager, Bobby Gould, who was a player under Howe at Highbury 18 years ago, said: "It's rather like finding Miss World is free and asking for a date."

Fourth division Aldershot, who charged a record price of £9 for a place on the terrace for their recent win against Oxford in the third round of the FA Cup, have almost halved the prices for their fourth round match against Barnsley or Caernarfon.

It will now cost £5 to stand or £6.50 to sit for the tie scheduled for January 31. Children and pensioners will be charged £3 to stand and £4.50 for seats.

Colin Hancock, the club chairman, said: "We will not charge such high prices, partly because we expect a larger capacity and also because neither club is in the first division."

Former favourite threatens old pals

By Clive White

David Pleat must feel like the runner-up in football's version of the Krypton Factor every time he casts an envious glance across north London in the direction of Arsenal.

While George Graham can afford to stand back and admire very nearly the finished article, Pleat is still fiddling with the pieces.

"People ask me, if I can see a pattern in the Tottenham team, but the bits of the jigsaw don't even fit yet," Pleat said. "Sections of the team have still to be sorted out and I've got new faces who have yet to get acquainted with the players around them."

In fairness to Pleat, Graham had a head start. Nine of the 12 whom Pleat led Luton Town to victory against in an FA Cup fifth round replay last season are fixtures in Graham's team. "Nicholas looked as if he didn't want to know. Hayes was awful and Quinn looked like a fish out of water. The only difference is they've got a different attitude now, which is down to George. But the unit was already conceived."

Pleat applauded Graham for sticking to his guns when they went through their only indifferent period of the season back in September, drawing three and losing one of four league games. "If anything he's been spoilt for lack of choice," Meanwhile

Pleat, whose side will face Arsenal in the Littlewoods Cup semi-finals if they overcome West Ham United, has made wholesale changes. "Our progress has been purely out of moving players in and out of the team."

Pleat sees this weekend as a significant one in the championship. "Manchester United are still a tough proposition at home. A good result for Arsenal will give notice of their intent. But I expect Everton to be steaming after the midweek defeat. You cannot dismiss the Merseyside clubs while they are prepared to spend the way they have recently. They have the gate receipts to generate big signings. I remember visiting Everton three seasons ago when I was at Luton and they had a crowd of 13,000. Since then they've averaged 40,000 gates."

One of the chief threats to Arsenal's leadership and unbeaten run of 22 games is posed by Frank Stapleton, a Highbury favourite for many years before joining United six years ago. For the assault on Arsenal's record he will be joined in the United attack by Terry Gibson, who will be starting in his first home league game since his arrival from Coventry City a year ago. Davenport, whose form has deteriorated recently, is likely to be the odd man out.

Alex Ferguson, United's manager, said: "Arsenal's big test will come if they are beaten." Graham, who like Stapleton left Arsenal as a player to join United, gave an indication that he is prepared to hang on to whatever it is he holds at Old Trafford, by bringing in Caesar, a defender, in place of the creative Rix.

The progress of their great rivals, Tottenham, faces its most testing seven days of the season, starting today against Aston Villa. "We need to win tomorrow to retain an interest in the league as well as making progress in the cup competitions against West Ham on Tuesday and Crystal Palace next Saturday," Pleat said.

London clubs set to make move for Hill

Ricky Hill, the former England midfielder player, is likely to attract the attention of at least two London clubs after rejecting a new contract with Luton. The skilful 27-year-old, has turned down a two-year agreement in the hope of securing a transfer to a big-city club.

He may well get his wish, as Tottenham are desperate for a replacement for Glenn Hoddle, their midfield player, who wants a move abroad at the end of the season. Chelsea, also seem likely to join the chase, as Hill nearly signed for them two years ago.

Hill said: "It would be sad to leave Luton, as they are a nice club but after 12 years I feel it's time to give my career a boost."

One Luton player who did move yesterday was Ricky McEvoy who joined Chesterfield in one of four loan transfers involving first division sides. The others saw Terry Howard, the Chelsea full back, sign for Chester. Phil Priest, the Chelsea midfielder, moved to Blackpool and Paul McMenamy, the West Ham forward, joined Northampton Town.

Brown best European with a 68

From John Ballantine, Phoenix

Ken Brown holed a 15-foot birdie putt on the last green for a 68 close to the end of a long and slow opening day in the Phoenix Open.

The Scot's fine card was the result of a typically dogged performance and it was the best of those of the four Europeans competing. Sandy Lyle scored 71 while Bernhard Langer and Philip Parkin both had 73s. These scores were all well behind Mark O'Meara's remarkable leading 63 while Brad Faxon was on 64 and Corey Pavin and Bobby Clampett were among a group on 65.

A two-hour delay through frost prevented 44 players from finishing their rounds and more frost caused more delay and frustration yesterday. When the organisers switched the event this year from its traditional downtown location to a spot 30 miles out in the desert beyond Scottsdale they took a big risk with the winter weather.

Once they had tied away, the leading professionals made hay while the sun raised the noon temperature to 70 degrees. O'Meara's early 63, which contained one eagle and six birdies, remained unsurpassed although Faxon, a 25-year-old New Jersey professional who now lives in Orlando, went close.

Lyle went reasonably well until he took four strokes to get out of two bunkers, while Parkin, playing in his first tournament, twice took three putts. The young Weisman plans to play in 12 US events before returning to start his European campaign in early May.

LEADING SCORES: 63, M O'Meara; 64, B Faxon; 65, C Pavin, B Clampett, E Fion, S Jones; 66, R McEneaney; 67, includes, H Sutton, F Zedler, A Begg, K Brown. Other European scores: 71, S Lyle; 73, B Langer, P Parkin.

Boycott threat

New Delhi (AFP) — Six Arab nations have threatened to boycott the 39th world table tennis championships here next month if Israel participates yesterday. "We are confident Israel will not allow Israel to compete but there will be an Arab boycott if it happens," Hagar Kashif Badri, chief of the League of Arab States mission here, said.

Sixty-five nations have confirmed their participation in the championships which begin on February 18. "India as a host country can say no to Israel and we believe it will say no," Mrs Badri said.

Athenians back

The Athenian League, which ceased to function as a football competition three years ago, confirmed yesterday that it would be revived next season. In a brief statement, the league said it was doing so "at the request of clubs". The Vauxhall-Opel League, which may lose some clubs to the revived league, has complained to the Football Association.

Hahnenkamm is tamed by Bell but demolishes Brooker

From David Miller, Kitzbühel, Austria

Ever since the Olympic Games in Munich and those doomed Israeli hostages, the chattering sound of a helicopter has sent a shiver down my spine, an intimation of disaster: the chopper blades were whirling over the Hahnenkamm here yesterday morning. The spectator appeal of downhill skiing, with its breakneck speeds, has much of the morbid fascination of motor racing.

Todd Brooker, the smiling 26-year-old Canadian racer, was on his final training run, one place before Martin Bell of Britain, for today's race on this formidable course where Brooker won in 1983. A few hundred yards from the bottom, hurtling towards the finishing line at around 75mph, Brooker suffered a fall so appalling that for hundreds of spectators their hearts momentarily stood still.

As Brooker was catapulted nearly 100 yards until he lay motionless against a safety fence, having somersaulted four times like a broken wagon wheel, twice bouncing on his head, we all wondered how he could still be alive. Those who follow this iron sport of nerveless athletes say they have never seen such a frightening accident.

Mercifully, a rescuer having been winched down to lift Brooker's semi-conscious crumpled body away to the local hospital, it was learned that he had sustained nothing worse than concussion, a broken nose, lacerations of the face and torn ligaments of the left knee. There may be few physical challenges remaining in modern life, but one of them is here in the Alps.

The almost romantic duel with fear reaches a zenith on the Hahnenkamm. For the first time ever, the leading racers are breaking a time of two minutes for the three and a half kilometre course with its vertical drop of over 2,600 feet. Bell, a commendable

tenth on yesterday's training run, was only 0.11 secs over the two minutes. Peter Müller and Pirmin Zurbriggen, the two Swiss who have headed the timings for the past two days, have been nudging 1:59 — and yesterday Müller got underneath that by four hundredths of a second.

The two of them are quoted jointly at 3-to-1 in the betting for today, with Wasmeier (West Germany) and Alpiger (Switzerland) on five, half a dozen others on sixes, and Bell priced at 15. It is a good price: he could surprise a few.

"I'm no longer frightened of the course," he said after yesterday's run. "It's incredibly steep and icy, very technical because of the tight turns, and hairy because there's no room for manoeuvre. If you misjudge anything, you don't merely lose time, you're off the course."

Practice times

Downhill: 1, P Müller (Switz), 1min 58.94sec; 2, P Zurbriggen (Switz), 1:59.01; 3, F Wasmeier (Ger), 1:59.24; 4, Alpiger (Switz), 1:59.41; 5, F Heitzner (Switz), 1:59.51; 6, E Resch (Aust), 1:59.70; 7, C Cashman (Switz), 1:59.76; 8, M Wasmeier (Ger), 1:59.95; 9, B Müller (Switz), 1:59.97; 10, M Bell (GB), 2:00.11.

"I'm thrilled that I'm skiing it much better than last year. I know now that I can win at Kitzbühel." He is not saying today, which will be his sixth attempt, but some of the fears have been mastered.

As he came to the Hausberg jump yesterday, some 600 metres from the finish, he caught sight in the corner of his eye of a yellow flag being waved by a steward: the sign to stop because there has been an accident. It was in the fierce depression following this jump that Brooker had got into trouble as he attempted to take the sharp left-hand bend, losing a ski as he tried to negotiate the gate for the subsequent right-hand turn. There was nothing much

Bell could do, except throttle back, take the last two turns carefully and coast to the line. In such circumstances his time was exceptional.

On the flatter middle section of the course his split time ranked him only 17th, but on the top, and most difficult, part of the run he was fourth fastest. The top, he says, is the key to winning the race. He is at his best on ice, less accomplished on the gliding phases.

After starting the season with such promise as Val D'Isère, he then had the misfortune to break his fastest ski in a heavy jump at Val Gardena when lying sixth in training, and finished 22nd. Continued problems with his skis, and indifferent runs at Garmisch-Partenkirchen and then Wengen ended with him going for special testing under the supervision of Fischer, who supply his skis.

They discovered, apart from any problem with their own product, that Bell was positioning himself incorrectly, and a correction to that has improved his gliding performance. He is now skiing maybe better than at any time in his career, and a prominent performance today would provide a fine psychological boost for the world championships starting next week at Crans Montana.

The sponsor's pennant hanging outside the British hotel here is unintentionally accurate. "Bell's British Ski Team" it says. With Nigel Smith having had to return home after a fall on Wednesday, and with Graham Bell and Ronnie Duncan in France attempting to pick up FIS points in other races, Martin is here on his own. It is remarkable that as the starters go to the line this morning there are eight Austrians ranked behind Bell on training times, and only one, Erwin Resch, in front of him.

RUGBY UNION

NIFC hoping for points at Gibson Park

It is decision day in section one of the Ulster Senior League with Ballymena and Instonians, both unbeaten, clashing at Shane Park. And at the other end of the scale NIFC, without any points, face a formidable task against Malone at Gibson Park (George Ace writes).

The all-round strength of Ballymena and the match-winning qualities of Ringland, on the right wing, will be put to the test against Instonians. League points appear to act as a spur to the side and with Ringland's Irish colleague, Crossan, in direct opposition, aided and abetted by David Irwin.

NIFC welcome back at centre, Robert Kururangi, the Maori All Black, and Stephen Snoddy, at scrum half. Kururangi's experience and thrust in the three-quarter line will be a decided asset to a side desperately looking for points. Ulster Senior Cup draw: First round: (Feb 28) — (1) Portlaoine v Dungannon; (2) NIFC v Ballymena; (3) City of Derry v Coleraine v Ballynure; (4) Carrington v Ards; (5) MFC v Ballynure; (6) Rathfriland v Malone; (7) Acoemore v Benger; (8) Armagh v CRYMS. Second round: (March 14) — (9) winner 1 v winner 2 (10) 3 v 4, (11) 5 v 6, (12) 7 v 8. Semi-finals: (March 28) — winner 1 v winner 10, 11 v 12. Final: Saturday, April 11.

The boy with top woman to beat

By Colin McQuillan

The perennial argument over male and female parity in sport takes on yet another dimension next month when Susan Devoy, the women's world squash champion, takes up the challenge of a 14-year-old Yorkshire schoolboy, Simon Parke, for a winner-takes-all £2,000 purse.

Miss Devoy, aged 23, from Rotoma in New Zealand, has just returned to her English base at the Oasis Club in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, to prepare for the European season and the April defence of her British Open title. She was married just before Christmas, to John Oakley, her trainer, and has been concentrating her training off court through the past two months.

Her challenger is no ordinary schoolboy. From his home base at Pontefract, Parke has dominated every British Open age group championship from 10 to 16.

More pertinently, last summer, Parke defeated Lisa Opie, the British national champion, five times out of five in a travelling challenge series around Yorkshire. "I enjoyed the matches against Lisa," he said. "She was a little slow but her racket skills were as good as any man's. They were all good games and at times could have gone either way. I learned quite a bit and no doubt will do the same against Susan who is obviously a tremendous player."

But Parke's coach and squash mentor, Malcolm Willstrop, frowned upon that series and is not sure that the challenge offers much genuine sporting prospect. He said: "These things do the game no real harm. If they are approached in a suitably entertaining mood but there is very little chance even for Susan, who is far and away the best woman player in the world, to



Parke: schoolboy prodigy survive against Simon if he is playing reasonably well.

Miss Devoy herself is pessimistic of the outcome. "I played Glen Wilson, the best junior in New Zealand, and he slaughtered me," she noted. "I play men all the time in the leagues back home and I play for the Oasis men's first team. I can deal with their strength and power, but their speed around the court is just too much. They get to everything."

Parke is already some levels ahead of Wilson. He plays regularly in the same Harrogate team as Bryan Beeson, the British champion, in the Yorkshire premier league, the strongest county league in the country. He is already on the books at Chapel Allerton club in Leeds for national league action.

The challenge against the women's world champion grew from an exhibition Parke put on at the Oasis against Stacy Ross, the brilliant young prospect from Surrey, before the 1986 under-23 final at Marlow.

Club members who have virtually adopted Miss Devoy for the European half of each working year since she first won the British Open in 1984, agreed to raise £1,000 on her behalf when it was suggested the Yorkshire boy could beat her. Willstrop will arrive at Marlow with the £1,000 to back his boy.

Bryce Taylor, who is squash director at the Oasis and the man who coached Miss Devoy to her early successes, is a famed betting man. He was quick to set up the planning which led inevitably to the challenge match at Marlow on February 13.

"I know Susan's capability and I am sure she can beat the boy I watched last year," Taylor said. "It is one of the great debates of squash, whether a top woman can compete against even a quality club man. This is a perfect way to test the various viewpoints and enjoy risking a few pounds on the outcome."

Miss Devoy knows all about Taylor's gambling instincts and is quite willing to take on the youngster on a day she thinks could be lucky for either player. "On balance I would rather have played this match at the end of the European season when my matchplay will be sharper, but I am happy to strike a blow for the women's game. It is all part of professional life. A life plan to be living for several years to come."

Tories camp for I

For the Tories, the campaign for the 1992 election is already under way. The party's strategy is to focus on the economy and the environment, and to present a strong alternative to the Labour government.

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